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HIGHER! HIGHER!

Skiers and snowboarders were thrilled with Thursday's official opening of Calgary Olympic Park's latest expansion, which saw the addition of a new high-speed quad and 100 extra vertical feet. The \$4-million project means the hill now meets the International Ski Federation's specifications, enabling COP to host World Cup slalom races. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

'Society has a right to know': ATA

Difficult budget.

Advertising campaign in print and on TV to warn Albertans about the negative effects of education cuts

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
edmonton@metronews.ca

Fearing upwards of \$200 million in cuts to education in next week's provincial budget, the Alberta Teachers' Association plans to launch an advertising campaign on the same day the budget is released.

The print and television advertising campaign will warn the public that cuts to education will hurt the province's students.

"When we heard the ru-

mours of cuts to education, our provincial executive decided we need a campaign," ATA president Carol Henderson said Thursday.

On Tuesday, the ATA rejected a last-ditch contract proposal from the province, stating it was worse for teachers than a proposal the association shot down in December.

After more than two years of talks an agreement has still not been reached.

The television portion of the ATA's campaign is scheduled to launch on March 7, the same day the province unveils the budget. The print portion will launch on March 11.

Henderson warned teachers Thursday at the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention of potential cuts once the budget is released.

"We are concerned. We've heard that it could be upwards

of \$200 million of the education budget, and that's 2,000 teachers," Henderson told a room packed with teachers.

Education Minister Jeff Johnson also attended the convention and, in between chatting with teachers, he told media there is a "very difficult budget coming down" next week.

Henderson said the scheduled advertising campaign will educate viewers about cuts to the education budget and classroom conditions.

"It's just trying to build an awareness with the public, this could be happening and it could affect your child, and public education is well supported in Alberta," Henderson said.

"We just believe that society has a right to know. Our communities need to know this is happening."

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Unrealistic deadlines

Alberta queue-jumping inquiry accuses health minister of interference

The head of Alberta's queue-jumping inquiry is accusing Health Minister Fred Horne of interfering with its work by setting unrealistic deadlines.

Commission head John Vertes told the inquiry Thursday that Horne wrote him a letter on Feb. 19 rejecting Vertes's request for an extension on the April 30 deadline to submit his report to the legislature.

"Not only is such a rejection unprecedented, it borders on an interference with the independence of this commission, since it would require me to rush through a report that would not be as complete or thorough as I would want," Vertes said.

Vertes said he knew in January that the commission would go overtime and asked Horne on Jan. 22 for a six-month extension.

He said Horne's rejection letter didn't arrive until a month later and did not give reasons for saying no.

Vertes said he could have shut down the hearings at that point and met the April 30 deadline with an "incomplete" report or continued the hearings knowing he'd be late with his summation.

He chose the latter.

In an interview, Horne declined to comment on the reasons for the initial refusal, citing cabinet confidentiality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A marijuana plant is seen in a home in this 2010 file photo. Calgary police have weighed in with recommendations for the future supply of the drug in advance of anticipated federal regulations that would ban residential grow operations. (ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE)

Police letter smokes local dispensary talk

Regulations. Health Canada moving away from residential pot growing



JEREMY NOLAÏS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

As they brace for new federal regulations barring residential marijuana grows, Calgary police are aiming to snuff out any talk of establishing dispensaries locally.

A letter to Health Canada dated Jan. 28 and obtained by Metro indicates that while police support the move away from home grow operations — members have long sug-

gested they can pose a public safety risk if improperly managed — they want to see tight regulations that would only allow the drug to be provided in the same manner as other pharmaceuticals.

"Since the government is proposing to treat medical marijuana like any other legally prescribed narcotic, we would recommend that the sale of this drug be restricted to pharmacies and hospitals as with any other regulated drug," the letter states.

Health Canada has launched a public consultation on new regulations for medical marijuana growing and appears primed to move towards a commercial market that would provide the drug only to licensed users.

Medical marijuana

Marijuana dispensaries already operate in B.C., Ontario and Quebec.

- According to a letter from police, the City of Calgary has already been approached by contractors looking to obtain permits and support for the construction of medicinal marijuana grows.
- If police recommendations were accepted, the commercial grows would still operate legally, but only be allowed to provide their product to pharmacies and hospitals.

But Calgary deputy police chief Murray Stooke said the

service's recommendation would simply "normalize the process," allowing for better management and enforcement against violators.

"People with prescriptions can already obtain (marijuana) through that (pharmacy) channel," he noted.

But Keith Fagin with Calgary 420 Cannabis Community said dispensaries better serve marijuana users because they often feature numerous strains of the drug and products containing it — baked goods, butters and other items.

"These guys know their stuff, they live it, breathe it — it's their life," he said of dispensary operators. "It's a much more friendly atmosphere. These are like-minded people, they understand."

Flanagan apologizes for child-porn comments

Former Stephen Harper strategist Tom Flanagan has been widely and swiftly condemned for suggesting that people looking at child pornography shouldn't be jailed.

Flanagan made the controversial remark during a lecture Wednesday night in southern Alberta. His words were recorded on a cellphone and quickly posted on YouTube.

It didn't take long for people to start cutting ties.

By noon Thursday, the CBC dumped Flanagan as a panelist on its Power and Politics

Misstep

"I apologize unreservedly to all who were offended by my statement."

Former Tory strategist Tom Flanagan

program. The University of Calgary, where he is a political science professor, issued a statement distancing itself from his views and then hours later announced his retirement.

In a statement attributed to him on the CBC website,

Flanagan was apologetic to anyone he offended. He said he absolutely condemns child sex abuse.

"In an academic setting, I raised a theoretical question about how far criminalization should extend toward the consumption of pornography," the statement reads.

"My words were badly chosen, and in the resulting uproar I was not able to express my abhorrence of child pornography and the sexual abuse of children."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Community programs. Alberta outlines social policy framework

Alberta Premier Alison Redford says her government plans to dictate less and focus more on harnessing the energy of agencies to deliver social programs.

"We have government that has invested heavily in social programs across this province," Redford said Thursday.

"But we've also seen over a period of time a number of initiatives and programs that have developed in response to particular circumstances, and at no time have we taken the time to sit down and ask ourselves: 'How do these connect?'"

Redford made the comments at a care facility as she outlined her government's new blueprint of guiding principles for social programs.

The core change is the role of government from funder and legislator to convener and partner.

The strategy was developed following consultations with 31,000 Albertans last year.

Minister Dave Hancock said while the government is the driving force, "we didn't want it to be our policy. We wanted it to be owned by community agencies." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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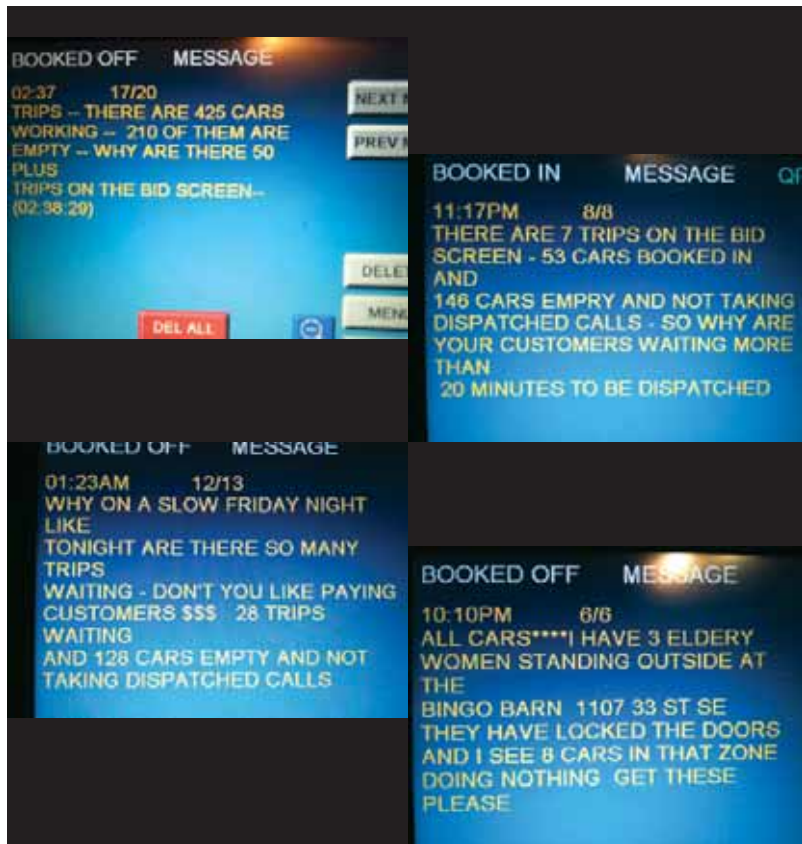
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These images from the dashboard computers of Associated Cabs depict some of the frustration with the company's dispatch system as it stands. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

'Level of confidence' in taxi system must improve, says chair

Road ahead. Images from Associated Cabs depict struggles with current dispatch system

Confidence among all parties — brokers, drivers and paying customers — must improve going forward for Calgary's taxi system to flourish, says the head of an oversight committee.

Jonathon Campbell, chair of the Taxi Limousine Advisory Committee, made those remarks Thursday after viewing images taken off the dashboard computers aboard Associated Cabs operating in the city that were provided exclusively to Metro.

The images depict struggles with convincing drivers to pick up so-called "bid screen" trips, which are logged for service after a customer calls for a ride.

"That's a concern because we hear over and over again that the drivers are slow, the

Customers partly to blame

- Taxi Limousine Advisory Committee chair Jonathon Campbell said customers need to also be aware of the "drain on the system" they create when they don't wait for an ordered cab or call multiple companies for service.
- Brokers have reported an increase in "no-show" trips in recent months.

dispatchers aren't getting trips through.... There needs to be a level of confidence throughout that system, that the customers are going to be where they say they're going to be, the drivers believe dispatch is answering the phones as fast as they can and the calls they're getting are going to be standing there waiting for them," he said.

The head of a local cab drivers association said earlier this

week there's a lack of trust in the system and customers, as many taxis will head to the suburbs for a trip only to realize the patron has hopped in with another company.

But new measures aimed at improving the system are on the way, Campbell reassured. He pointed to newly mandated GPS monitoring of cabs that has only recently begun and other measures to improve driver-customer relations — one example is a system he said is being fine-tuned by Checker Yellow Cabs that introduces a follow-up call to customers when a vehicle is en route to ensure they still need a ride.

City bylaws do require cab drivers to give priority to dispatched calls, Campbell added.

Ald. Andre Chabot said he believes drivers who violate the bylaw should face fines.

"That wouldn't be hard to trace, because they now have to report how much they make, who's driving when and all of that kind of stuff," he said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



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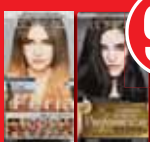
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Dispute. Regional mediation won't include Wheatland County

Wheatland County is refusing to take part in mediation over the Calgary Metropolitan Plan, but the province plans to press ahead with the process regardless.

"We don't want to participate," Reeve Glenn Koester told Metro. "There's nothing the city has to offer us. So why would we want to be in the mediation?"

Wheatland County, along with Rocky View County and the Municipal District of Foothills, are not part of the plan and don't currently sit on the Calgary Regional Partnership, which voted last week to participate in the mediation.

Both Rocky View Reeve Rolly Ashdown and Foothills Reeve Larry Spilak told Metro this week their municipalities are willing to take part in mediation, though their concerns remain the same over an effective "veto" they say the plan gives Calgary over regional decisions.

Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths announced the mediation process in February, saying he hoped it would "help resolve this once and for all."

Spat

- The Calgary Metropolitan Plan led to last month's public spat between Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths.

- Nenshi wants the province to legislate holdout municipalities into the regional plan, but the province has said it won't do that.

Municipal Affairs spokesman Jerry Wary said Thursday Wheatland County need not necessarily be involved.

"The minister has been contemplating whether Wheatland needs to be included in the mediation, given its relative distance from the city," he said.

Details on the mediation are still being sorted out but Ward said it should "get underway pretty soon" as Griffiths hopes to have a report on the process by June.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

AT THIS RATE, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KEEP DANCING ON MY OWN



IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

A few weeks ago, I was watching an episode of HBO's *Girls*. The show's lead went out for an epic night of sweaty and sticky dancing, and ever since then, I've been wanting to do the same.

True, at 30 years old, I'd probably end up going early to take advantage of happy-hour pricing, only to injure myself before midnight, but regardless, I've been itching to go out.

The only problem? All the dance clubs keep closing.

Earlier this week, The Back Alley announced that after this weekend, it'll be closing its doors for good. The bar and its dubious reputation join a long list of businesses that have closed over recent years, including

Mansion, The Whisky, Tantra, Rusty Cage, Sapien and Coyotes.

So Calgary, I have to ask. Did John Lithgow move to town and you all just decided not to tell me? Why don't people love dancing anymore?

It's not that our city is completely devoid of places to dance, it's just that most of them have been taken over by hipsters and their interpretation of dancing, which, to be clear, is not dancing. In an effort to try to have fun without actually looking like they're having fun, hipsters tend to simply bounce up and down for hours on end. Sometimes, perhaps after a vodka and Red Bull, they'll side-step, but their dancing comfort zone is definitely the bounce.

When I was in my early 20s, I used to love going out and really letting loose to the point where my en-

It's not an attack

If I'm being honest, I think I'm really just scared that if we run out of places to dance, it'll lead to people thinking outside of the box. In my experience, that sort of thinking always leads to flash mobs or lip dubs. And as we all know, there's nothing worse than a flash mob.

tire body would be sore. All bouncing up and down does is work out my calves, which is arguably the most useless muscle on my body.

In my research (yes, I research these columns), Cowboys seems to be one of few places left to really let out my inner Jennifer Beals.

And you know what? I have to say, the few times I've visited the newly reopened club I've actually enjoyed myself.

Because it's now partnered with the Calgary Stampede, Cowboys has had to clean up its act a little bit. Which means it's no longer the rum-soaked sweat lodge that once attracted the likes of Prince Harry.

That being said, I've never been there past 11 p.m., so who knows what really happens long after I've gone to bed?

If I'm being honest, I think I'm really just scared that if we run out of places to dance, it'll lead to people thinking outside of the box. In my experience, that sort of thinking always leads to flash mobs or lip dubs. And as we all know, there's nothing worse than a flash mob.

MIKE MORRISON WRITES MIKE'S BLOGGITY BLOG AND OFTEN TWEETS IN THE DARK FROM @MIKEBLOGGITY

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Concern. Education minister investigated over emails to teachers

Alberta's education minister says despite an investigation by the privacy commissioner, he will continue to contact the province's teachers using their email addresses until he is told otherwise.

On Thursday, Alberta's Information and Privacy Commissioner Jill Clayton launched an investigation into emails sent Feb. 6 from Jeff Johnson to the province's 30,000 teachers.

Clayton said she wants to determine for herself, and teachers, whether the emails were sent in compliance with Alberta privacy laws.

Johnson said he respects

the investigation but defended his actions.

"We need to be able to communicate with teachers about their profession, so it's entirely appropriate that the minister would take those contacts that are residing within his ministry to communicate with professionals about the profession that he's responsible to regulate," he said.

Chris Ferguson, an Edmonton high school teacher, said he doesn't think the minister's first email was acceptable and is glad the matter is being investigated.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/
METRO IN EDMONTON

On the hunt

Police looking for this man

Calgary police are seeking help locating a man wanted on a warrant.

Kevin Joseph Lavoie, 32, is wanted for breaching his conditional sentence.

He is described as a white,

about five-foot-nine and 190 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair. Anyone with information is asked to call 1-800-222-8477. METRO



Lavoie

Mother thanks city transit officials for son's safe return



Ksenia Druzhkin was relieved her son Platon, 5, was returned safely to her after he hopped onto a C-Train Tuesday while she was on the platform.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Moving train.

Five-year-old was separated from mother at C-Train station



KATIE TURNER

katie.turner@metronews.ca

When the doors to the C-Train closed and Ksenia Druzhkin realized her young son was on the moving vehicle and she wasn't, panic set in.

Following an afternoon at the library Tuesday, Druzhkin was rushing with her sons Platon, 5, and Rodion, 2, to make the train at Westbrook Station. Platon had hopped on the train when the back wheel of the stroller Druzhkin was pushing became stuck.

"When the train got away, I was scared," said Druzhkin.

Druzhkin picked up the emergency help phone on the platform and spoke with a dispatcher who con-

Quoted

"When I took custody of him, he wasn't scared, just relaxed — cool as a cucumber."

Peter Monrose, C-Train operator

tacted the C-Train operator, Peter Monrose.

"After two minutes, she called me to say, 'Don't worry, he's OK.'"

Monrose stopped the train at the next station and brought Platon to the front cab.

"I explained to him what all the dials and buttons were.... He was quite excited," said Monrose.

Platon said on his short ride at the front of the train he saw "roads, switching tracks, lots of things," and added he wasn't frightened at all.

Druzhkin said it was only a matter of minutes before her son was back in her arms.

"I want to say for all parents, please be careful."

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Coming Out Monologues give a voice to LGBTQ performers

'Empowering experience'. Event returns to University of Calgary for fourth year



KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

With little more than the stage and their stories, members of Calgary's LGBTQ community will be performing this month to share their varied experiences of coming out.

For the fourth year, the University of Calgary will host the Coming Out Monologues — a series of one-person performances, many of which are written by the performers themselves.

"It's all based off the Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler," said one of the production's organizers, Nolan Hill. "For this, it's all about coming out of the closet as



The cast of last year's Coming Out Monologues is pictured in this 2012 photo. This year's performances will be held March 13 to 15. [FACEBOOK.COM](https://www.facebook.com/comingoutmonologues)

LGBTQ."

Since the production started at the U of C four years ago, Hill says they've

seen it grow to three evenings with around 30 performers.

"It's a very empowering

experience," said Hill.

First-time performer Daniel Sadler's monologue will be based on his experi-

ence of coming out to his older brother.

"It lets people sort of tell their own unique experi-

Need-to-know

- The shows will be held March 13 to 15 at the Boris Roubakine Theatre at the University of Calgary.
- Tickets are \$10, with half the proceeds going to the Calgary Sexual Health Centre.
- Information booths and an art exhibit will also be set up.
- For more information, visit comingouttyc.tumblr.com.

ences, while at the same time, it's more accessible for people to understand in four or five minutes."

Follow Katie Turner on
Twitter @Metro_Katie



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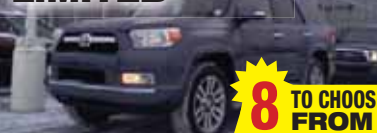


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Calgary's stone-cold champs

To celebrate the start of this year's Tim Hortons Brier Cup in Edmonton, Metro looks at five of Calgary's top curling talents.

LISA WILTON
calgary@metronews.ca



Cheryl Bernard

Cheryl Bernard is considered one of the best skips Alberta has ever produced. Curling since the age of eight, Bernard led her team from the Calgary Curling Club to gold at the Olympic Curling Trials in Edmonton in 2009. She helped the team win silver the next year at the Vancouver Games.



Crystal Webster

The 37-year-old curler made her national curling debut as a skip at the Canadian Junior Curling Championships in 1994. She made it to the finals of the 2000 Alberta Scott Tournament of Hearts but has yet to win a national title.



Ron Northcott

Ron Northcott is one of a handful of curlers who have won the Brier Cup three times. He went home with the honour in 1966, 1968 and 1969 and was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1970. The 77-year-old Innisfail-born skip also became a Canadian Curling Hall of Famer in 1973 and received the Order of Canada three years later.



Shannon Kleibrink

Originally from Norquay, Sask., Kleibrink has several awards under her belt, including a silver medal from the 2008 Regina Scotties Tournament of Hearts and a bronze from the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics. The four-time provincial champion underwent cancer surgery in 2011 but came back swinging after being given a clean bill of health.



Kevin Koe

Koe got his curling start in Yellowknife but relocated to Alberta in 2000. He currently plays with the Glencoe Curling Club and has great success in recent years. His team won gold at the Brier Cup in Halifax in 2010 and silver in Saskatoon last year. He also helped his team to a World Curling Championships medal in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, in 2010.



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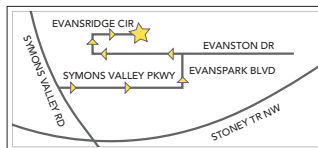


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Sobhi al-Hamod, 60, lives with his family at an underground cave in Idlib province, Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians take shelter in cave monuments

Refuge. Entire families huddle inside ancient structures as fighting continues

No choice

"We used to be scared to go near the monuments. But now, they're benefitting us."

A young fighter in the Jebel al-Zawiya who gave his name as Abu Mohammed

Like countless other Syrians fleeing their country's civil war, Sami was eager to escape the bombs and artillery shells falling on his village. But instead of taking his family to another country, he simply brought them underground.

For the past seven months, the family has lived in a chamber cut into the rock of the Jebel al-Zawiya hills, its walls etched with arabesques and alcoves.

Sami, a 32-year-old stonecutter, believes that his new home is a Roman shrine. Its design in fact suggests it may be a tomb.

Across northern Syria, rebels, soldiers and civilians are making use of the country's wealth of ancient and medieval remains for protection. The structures are built of thick stone that has already with-

stood the ravages of centuries. They are often located in strategic spots overlooking towns and roads.

Sami, who like many Syrians was reluctant to give his full name for security reasons, says cave life is hard. The worst part isn't the lack of electricity or running water. It's the smoke from the indoor fires.

"We go daily to the doctor for our children," he said. His youngest, a two-month-old girl named Abir, has been badly afflicted with respiratory problems.

But he considers the discomfort and health risks of the cave preferable to the terror of life above ground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war at a glance

- **Casualties.** The number of people killed in Syria's civil war is nearing 70,000, according to U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay. There are no precise death tolls available from the Syrian regime.
- **Refugees.** U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos says the growing number of Syrians affected by the civil war in Syria is now 4 million and rising. They include an estimated 2 million displaced within Syria and nearly 925,000 who have fled the country. Most of the refugees have gone to neighbouring Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

Aid. U.S. to provide Free Syrian Army with supplies

In a significant policy shift, the Obama administration said Thursday it would for the first time provide non-lethal aid directly to rebels who are battling to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad, announcing an additional \$60 million in assistance to Syria's political opposition.

The modest package of aid to the military wing of the opposition will consist of as yet undetermined amount of food rations and medical supplies for members of the Free Syrian Army, who will be carefully screened to ensure they do not have links to extremists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Syrian National Coalition President Mouaz al-Khatib.

JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Benedict XVI promises obedience to new Pope

Emeritus. As he leaves the Vatican, ex-pontiff says he's beginning the final stage of his life as 'simply a pilgrim'

Benedict XVI became the first pope in 600 years to resign Thursday, ending an eight-year pontificate shaped by struggles to move the church past sex abuse scandals and to reawaken Christianity in an indifferent world.

As bells tolled, the Swiss Guard standing at attention in the papal retreat of Castel Gandolfo shut the doors of the palazzo shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday (2 p.m. EST), symbolically closing out a papacy whose legacy will be most marked by the way it ended — a resignation.

In a changing of the guard, the Swiss Guards, in their yellow-and-blue striped uniforms, handed over responsibility of protecting the 85-year-old Ben-

'Viva il papa!': Crowd



Benedict waves goodbye. AP

On Thursday, Benedict told his cardinals, "Among you is ... the future pope, whom I today promise my unconditional reverence and obedience."

- "May the College of Cardinals work like an orchestra ... toward a higher and harmonious agreement," he said.

edict to Vatican police as some of the faithful outside shouted "Viva il papa!"

The pope's journey into retirement began with an emotional send-off from the Vatican. Swiss Guards in full regalia and prelates kneeling to kiss Benedict's ring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Sweet Sistine.' Could a cardinal from Africa be the next pope?

Now that Pope Benedict XVI has officially stepped down, speculation about who will be the next to wear the shoes of the fisherman is ramping up.

A number of front-runners have emerged, including Canada's own Cardinal Marc Ouellet, as well as Italy's Angelo Scola. However, based on Google searches in the past 30 days, people on the Internet seem to be showing interest in a candidate from the developing world.

Searches for Ghana's Cardinal Peter Turkson spiked following Benedict's resignation, and he is still enjoying a small lead over the competition.

Ouellet is sitting in third, only slightly behind Scola.

Search volume for the "Sweet Sistine" is highest in Poland, home to Pope John Paul II.

Italy and Mexico round out the top three.

The cardinals will convene a conclave in the coming weeks and it's expected the world's 1.2 billion Catholics will have a new pope by Easter.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE



Cardinal Angelo Scola of Italy GETTY IMAGES



Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana, Africa GETTY IMAGES



Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec GETTY IMAGES



Young priests in Rome wave to the helicopter taking Pope Benedict XVI from the Vatican to Castel Gandolfo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ANGELO CARCONI

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A tale of two job prospects

New grads.

Good timing versus the ticking clock: Two grads tell of their success and challenges in a hostile job market



JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

For Chris Meelker, finding work after graduating from Confederation College's Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Technology program in 2011 was relatively easy.

After all, he had a job waiting for him at Bombardier — the largest aerospace company in Canada — before he took off his mortarboard.

The 26-year-old methods analyst said there were a few factors that led him to where he is today.

For one, he dropped out of Carleton University's engineering program in Ottawa.

"It was not what I thought it was going to be, and I could see that with the number of people there, the competition was going to be fierce," he told Metro



Chris Meelker, 26, says luck was on his side. CONTRIBUTED

in a phone interview from Montreal, where he works.

The program was a little too theoretical, he said, so he applied to Confederation College in Thunder Bay. In his last year, a member of Bombardier interviewed his graduating class for positions at the company.

He, along with four other graduates, passed and started work after just one month.

Not bad for someone who, at the time, was 24 and fresh out of college. He admits, though, that luck was on his side.

"I think it was really a case of timing," said Meelker. "Bombardier was working on a new program that they were hiring

for, and we were graduating at the right time."

With no student debt — he worked during school and the summers — he is now saving his money to buy a new house.

When asked why some youth are struggling to find work these days, he, like most, couldn't give a clear answer.

However, he said it may be related to simple numbers.

"When you have a ... class of 400 to 500 people at every major school in Canada and you think that every year they're pumping out thousands of engineering grads — how can there be demand for that sort of thing?" he said.

One of the lost

"I want to start a family.... Going back to school is counter-productive to that aim."

Aldin Basic, educated but unemployed

You can count Aldin Basic as one of the lost — the host of Canadian 20-somethings with a university degree that struggle to find work in their field.

In fact, Basic has two degrees — one in biochemistry and one in psychology from the University of Ottawa. He got the latter in October 2012.

But for the past four months, the 26-year-old hasn't been able to get his foot in the door. He wants to get into pharmaceutical or biomedical sales.

"Something where I can use both my theoretical knowledge and technical skills from science with communication skills that I've obtained from psychology and business," said Basic in an interview with Metro in Ottawa.

After fruitlessly sending out more than 200 job applications to various places since last May, he decided a couple of months



Aldin Basic, 26, has two degrees and no job. CONTRIBUTED

ago to try a different approach — investing considerable time in researching positions and developing contacts within a desired company before applying.

"I heard a statistic that says only 20 per cent of jobs are actually advertised on job search engines," said Basic. "So in order to increase your hit rate, you have to somehow become part of that inner circle. And when you're a recent graduate that has no real experience within the field you're trying to get into, getting into that inner circle is very difficult."

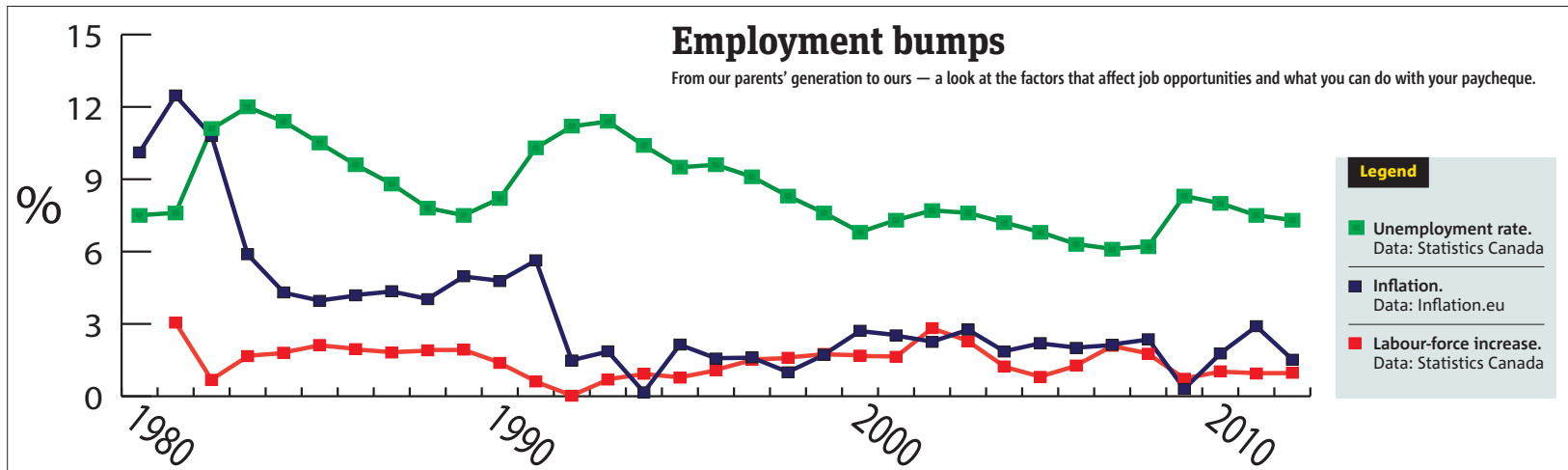
Part of the problem, he said, is that baby boomers are staying at their jobs longer while

more grads are coming out of university looking for work.

He said other stalled graduates he knows have either gone to graduate school or have gone to study other degrees. But for him, those are no longer options.

The clock is ticking. He gave himself a March 7 deadline — his 27th birthday — to find work. After that, he said he will broaden his job search outside of Ottawa.

"I want to start a family. I want to start helping my parents out at home. I want to start living a life right now," he said. "Going back to school is counterproductive to that aim."



This ain't our parents' economy



ALEX BOUTILLIER
Metro in Ottawa

When my parents were 26 and freshly out of university, they were expecting their first child and building their own house on land they owned.

Many in my generation are having a slightly ... different experience as we transition into our post-undergraduate life. And we're more likely to have a harder time getting started

on the next chapter.

True, unemployment among younger workers is much lower than it was after the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s. A recent study from the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada found that unemployment among younger workers between the ages of 25 and 29 was 7.8 per cent in 2011 — paling in comparison to the early '80s (12.9 per cent) and '90s (13 per cent).

At the same time, how-

Out of the loop

80%

Most businesses want to hire grads at the beginning of the final year of post-secondary education. They recruit right out of school, but 80 per cent of students don't know this, TalentEgg says.

ever, the barriers facing young people in getting a post-secondary education are increasing. In Ontario, tuition increased 200 per

cent between 1991 and 2007, according to the Communities Foundation of Canada. Ditto for Nova Scotia — where my parents built that house — and Alberta.

But a bachelor's degree, we were often told, was the new high school diploma, so off we went. And then, as my colleagues of the class of 2009 emerged bleary-eyed from the Groves of Academe, we found ourselves in the height of the recession. The economics majors explained to the rest of us why

that was bad.

Struggling to pay off student debt in a tough job market certainly makes it more difficult to pursue those adult goals, such as owning a home or not eating rice every meal.

But don't despair, soon-to-be-recent graduates. There are still many paths — they may just be a little more winding.

"What is key is for students to get into the job market while they are in university," explains David Lewis

Rodas-Wright, the University of Ottawa's employer-relations co-ordinator.

Rodas-White points to volunteerism, employer co-ops and internships — which my friends in journalism know all too well — to build up skills prior to graduation.

There is no doubt that there's a wall waiting at the end of graduation. But it's not necessarily taller than those previous generations faced. It's just different — like the ways over it.

Does TV lie to you? Experts put six celeb job paths to the test



Who: Betty Suarez
Path: Co-op

Perception: This is a backstage pass into the labour force

"Nowadays a co-op is the best way to make connections and develop enough experience to get a job right out of school."

Lauren Friese
Founder, TalentEgg, an online job-search tool for students and new grads



Who: Hannah of Girls
Path: Internship

Perception: You will be exploited for free labour

"There isn't necessarily a job at the end of the tunnel, but it can be a positive thing."

Lauren Friese



Who: Don Draper of Mad Men
Path: Straight job

Perception: There are no jobs

"Generation Y doesn't want to work their way up. They think they deserve meaningful jobs."

Lauren Friese



Who: Gordon Ramsey of Hell's Kitchen
Path: Entrepreneur

Perception: Most businesses fail in the first three years

"I see it as taking on a mortgage versus renting. Taking on a mortgage is a lot more risk but at the end of the day, it's yours."

Megan Summers
Founder, DinnerPlate, a catering logistics company



Who: Mike Holmes of Holmes on Homes
Path: Entrepreneur

Perception: It's dirty work

"We're looking at shortages of trades people because over the last couple of decades we've told students to go and get tech jobs."

Ingrid Argyle
Project manager
Ottawa Integrated Local Labour Market



Who: Sheldon from the Big Bang Theory
Path: Forever student

Perception: You will be over-educated and underemployed

"In university life, the job is to study and perform. The problem is they don't have a chance to get out and connect with people in the labour market."

David Lewis Rodas-Wright
Spokesperson, employer relations at University of Ottawa

METRO

Youth on the chopping block



STEVE COLLINS
For Metro in Ottawa

If you're young and out of work, you may feel the deck's stacked against you — and some of the numbers agree.

Youth unemployment "tends to hover at about twice the national rate," said BMO senior economist Sal Guatieri, who notes it peaked at 16.4 per cent during

the recent economic downturn. For those 25 and over, it peaked at 7.3 per cent.

Worse, according to a study by the Community Foundations of Canada, youth aged 15 to 24, who make up 16 per cent of the work force, accounted for 50 per cent of the recession's job losses.

"It's last in, first out for those with the least experience or seniority," Guatieri said.

The good news, he offered, is that while youth employment took the biggest hit when the job market tightened, it's also on a faster rebound.

"The youth unemployment rate has fallen twice as fast as the adult unemployment rate since peaking," he said. "It's just that it, of course, peaked at a much higher level."

He advises young people to "be patient and get as

Job cuts

"It's last in, first out for those with the least experience or seniority."

Sal Guatieri, BMO senior economist

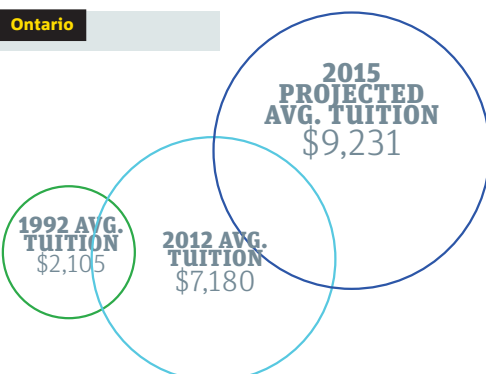
much education and training for the type of jobs that are in demand today: the high-tech positions, the professional services — those kind of jobs." Then wait for

the economic picture to improve.

"We really are dependant on the American consumer to pick up their socks and spend a little faster before Canadian exports recover and our economy strengthens," he said.

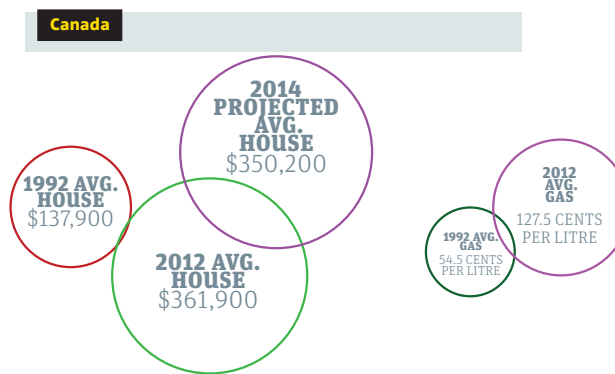
"We see that scenario unfolding later this year and into next year, so it may just be a matter of time before the youth unemployment rate falls more significantly."

Ontario



SOURCE: CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Canada



SOURCE: RBC

SOURCE: KENT MARKETING SERVICES

As students embark on post-secondary education, they are met with increasingly high levels of tuition. That, coupled with the increasing cost of living, and a daunting job market, can make expectations that much more unmanageable. METRO

Exclusively online

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Talent recruiter Stefan Danis helps youth cut through today's tough jobs market

- Is it really harder for today's grads to get jobs?
- How long is a good resumé?
- What's the biggest job seeking mistake?

Youth job market's 10-year outlook is a storm for students, says expert

- How is the "go to school, get a degree, get a good job" career path working today?

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New York. A ghastly turn in police cannibalism case

A police officer on trial for conspiracy to commit cannibalism considered the woman who was his New York Police department supervisor as a potential target of kidnap and torture, an FBI agent testified Thursday.

The testimony came amid a report that a man considered to be one of Officer Gilberto Valle's co-conspirators, identified in the U.S. case by the online name Moody Blues, had been detained but released in a separate case in Great Britain.

Returning to the witness stand at Valle's federal trial in Manhattan, FBI agent Corey Walsh told jurors that a search of Valle's computer had turned up a file with multiple photos of a woman the agent identified as an NYPD officer who supervised Valle.

The government had previously introduced a transcript of a February 2012 email exchange in which Valle offered a co-conspirator a menu of women he could abduct for rape and torture.

"The second girl listed is a cop Evelyn — 33 years old," Valle wrote.

"No I want a reg girl," the man responded.

The revelation came as the defence sought to discredit allegations that the 28-year-old Valle conspired with Internet friends to kidnap, kill and eat women, pressing Walsh on why some communications were deemed proof of a crime while others were deemed fantasies.

Defence attorney Robert Baum directed Walsh to obvious falsehoods in communications that the government has used as evidence Valle was a threat. In one, Moody Blues insisted he and Valle would need a secluded place to cook a woman alive.

Valle has been held without bail since October, when he was arrested on charges of conspiring to kidnap women in a cannibalism plot born on the Internet. Throughout the trial, which began Monday, Valle's lawyers have attacked government evidence as nothing more than the reflection of a man engaging in extreme sexual fantasies with like-minded people around the world. The government has conceded that Valle never met the purported Internet co-conspirators and no women were harmed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama to push Supreme Court on same-sex ruling

Report. U.S. President hopes non-binding brief will help overturn 'discriminatory' laws.

The Obama administration will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the state of California's ban on gay marriage and take a skeptical view of similar bans elsewhere, according to a person familiar with the government's legal filing in the California case.

While the administration's friend-of-the-court brief in the California case does not call for marriage equality across the United States, it does point the court in that direction.

A Supreme Court ruling in line with the administration's argument could have broad implications and almost certainly expand the rights of same-sex couples to wed.

The administration's nonbinding brief contends that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry violates the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. The document



Protesters hold signs at a same-sex marriage demonstration Oct. 15, 2007, in San Francisco. Thursday, sources said the Obama administration is poised to push the Supreme Court to rule against states that ban same-sex marriage. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

urges the justices to give extra rigorous review to any law that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

The person familiar with the brief spoke on anonymity in order to discuss the document before it was filed. The brief marks President Barack Obama's most expansive view of the legal rights of gays and lesbians to marry. He an-

nounced his personal support for gay marriage last year and has said marriage should be governed by states.

Obama, raised expectations that he would back a broad brief during his inauguration address on Jan. 21. He said the nation's journey "is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law."

The Proposition 8 ballot initiative was approved by California voters in 2008 in response to a state Supreme Court decision that had allowed gay marriage. Twenty-nine other states have constitutional amendments banning gay marriage; nine states and the Washington federal district recognize same-sex marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Africa. Watchdog group to probe death of man dragged by police van

They bound his hands to the rear of a van, and then sped off, dragging the slender taxi driver along the pavement as a crowd of onlookers shouted in dismay. The man was later found dead.

A video of the scene is all the more disturbing because the men who abused the Mozambican immigrant were uniformed South African police officers and the van was a marked police vehicle.

The graphic scenes of the victim struggling for his life shocked a nation accustomed to reports of police violence.

"The visuals of the incident are horrific, disturbing and unacceptable. No human being should be treated in that manner," said South African President Jacob Zuma.

The Daily Sun, a South African newspaper, posted the video footage Thursday sparking immediate outrage.

Some of those in the crowd who watched the scene unfold in the Daveyton township east of Johannesburg shouted at the police and warned that it was being videotaped.

The police did not seem at all concerned by all the witnesses and the presence of cameras as they tied Mido Macia, a 27-year-old



A still shot of South African police dragging Mido Macia behind a van on Tuesday. Macia was later found dead in his cell. THE DAILY SUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

from neighbouring Mozambique, to the back of a police vehicle, his hands behind his head. At least three policemen participated in the incident. Macia was found dead in a Daveyton police cell late Tuesday.

A murder probe is underway on the evidence that Macia suffered head and upper abdomen injuries, including internal bleeding, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, the police watchdog agency, said Thursday.

The injuries could be from the dragging and he could also have been beaten later in police custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fired up about independence from Japan

South Koreans wearing traditional Korean costumes carry torches and national flags as they march on the street during a ceremony to celebrate the March First Independence Movement Day, the anniversary of the 1919 uprising against Japanese colonial rule, in Cheonan, south of Seoul, on Thursday. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Las Vegas

Shooting suspect arrested

A self-described pimp was arrested Thursday in Los Angeles, ending a manhunt that began after a vehicle-to-vehicle shooting and spectacular, fiery crash that killed three people on the Las Vegas Strip a week ago, police said.

Ammar Harris, 26, surrendered to a team of police and federal agents who found him inside a North Hollywood apartment after a woman answered the door, authorities said.

Court documents allege Harris was driving his black Range Rover sports utility vehicle when he fired into the car, killing Kenneth Wayne Cherry Jr.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio de Janeiro

U.S. government worker found dead in hotel

A vacationing employee of the U.S. Department of State was found strangled in a Rio de Janeiro hotel, police said Thursday.

Rivaldo Barbosa, head of the Rio police homicide

division, identified the victim as 38-year-old Victoria Teaciu and said she was killed Feb. 20. A hotel employee found her body the same day.

Police have arrested a suspect who is seen in security camera video entering the hotel, Barbosa said. Investigators said it is unclear when Teaciu arrived in Brazil.

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Make like a pigeon.
'Stickers' let you home
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Bluetooth device

Jimmy Buchheim is behaving oddly.

On the floor of the world's largest cellphone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, he's looking at the screen of his iPod Touch, taking a few steps, and then looking again. Now and then he backtracks or turns, and looks again. Slowly, he confines his movements to a smaller and smaller area. Then he drops to his knees, and checks the screen again.

"There we are!" he says. Buchheim has found his keys, which had been hidden behind a wastebasket by a skeptical reporter. On the key ring is a small disc, slightly bigger than a quarter. That's what Buchheim was homing in on, with his iPod.

Buchheim's Davie, Fla.-based company, Stick-N-Find Technologies, wants to give people a way to find things,



Stick-N-Find THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

whether it's keys, wallets, TV remotes or cat collars.

There's no real trick to sending out a radio signal and having a phone pick it up. That's been done before. What makes the Stick-N-Find practical is a new radio technology known as Bluetooth Low Energy, which drastically reduces the battery power needed to send out a signal. That means the disc can be small, light enough for its sticky back to adhere to a lot of surfaces and be powered by a battery that lasts up to two years without recharging. The

signal can be picked up as far as 300 feet away, under ideal circumstances. At the wireless show, though, the range was about 20 feet.

One downside: It's not cheap. Stick-N-Find charges \$50 for two "stickers" from its first production run.

Another downside is that few devices can pick up the signals. Bluetooth Low Energy is expected to become a standard feature in phones, but it's not yet. Also, it won't tell you exactly where your sticker is located, only how far away it is.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heel!

Users can set up a virtual "leash" between a sticker and a Bluetooth device. When the two move a certain distance away from each other, the sticker can start beeping, or the device's screen can show an alert. That way, you could use a sticker in your wallet, linked to your phone, to let you know if you're leaving either one behind.



Dead no more?

This image shows a scene from the AMC hit The Walking Dead. Negotiations over a distribution deal between U.S.-based AMC and media giant Rogers Communications are heating up. Some Rogers customers reported Wednesday that online banner advertisements informed them that they "lost" or will lose The Walking Dead on their lineup. The confusing ads — AMC was still being carried by Rogers — seem to be displayed to customers with Rogers IP addresses. A spokeswoman said Rogers has no plans to pull the channel. Earlier this week, AMC warned some Canadians that they were at risk of losing popular shows if an agreement is not reached by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. RUSSELL KAYE/AMC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

February optimism

Small-business confidence up

Small businesses appear to be feeling more optimistic, according to the latest survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. The CFIB says its index rose a half a point to 66.2 on a scale of zero to 100. More than 50 means owners who expect their operations to be stronger in the next year outnumber those expecting a weaker performance. Alberta business owners remain the most optimistic. Ontario is slightly below the national average. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Education

iTunes U downloads top 1B: Apple

Apple says people have downloaded more than one billion items from iTunes U, which features free books, lectures and other information from schools, libraries

and museums around the world.

Apple Inc. said Thursday that there are now single iTunes U courses with more than 250,000 students enrolled in them. Eddy Cue, senior vice-president of Internet software and services, calls this a "phenomenal shift in the way we teach and learn."

Apple says more than

1,200 universities and 1,200 K-12 schools host courses on iTunes U. Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., and The Open University, an online learning centre based in the U.K., each had more than 60 million pieces of content downloaded.

More than 60 per cent of the iTunes U app downloads are outside the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bit less pepper and a bit more sodium citrate

Milk, eggs, cheese, transglutaminase, sodium citrate ...

It may not sound like the last grocery list you wrote, but the growing appeal of so-called modernist cooking — a science-tastic take on haute cuisine — has more home cooks adding laboratory-worthy ingredients and gizmos to their shopping. And that, of course, has spawned a mini-niche of online companies selling everything you need to play culinary alchemist at home.

At least a half-dozen companies now sell once-elusive ingredients like sodium citrate to emulsify cheeses into creamy sauces, "popping sugar" that explodes in your mouth, and "meat glue" — transglutaminase — to create dishes like tilapia spaghetti ("spaghetti" made from tilapia). Alongside equipment like cookie sheets and hand mixers, you can purchase pipettes to create "caviar" from various liquids or smoke torches that infuse

smoke flavour into dishes without heating them up.

Even big retailers are getting in on the action. Williams-Sonoma carries machines known as "sous vide," which cook using a warm water bath. Amazon offers ingredients such as agar-agar (to make gelatins) and xanthan gum (to thicken sauces), as well as whipping siphons to create foams and digital scales that weigh down to a hundredth of a gram.

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Another wacky week for the world ...

1 Oscar badness. The week opened way off Broadway with the Seth MacFarlane-hosted Oscars.

The creator of Family Guy managed to offend everyone's sensibilities with jokes and skits about Jews, gays, boobs, African-Americans and Abraham Lincoln's assassination. But the ratings were up! What a relief!

2 How many Supreme Court justices? Speaking of hate, did anyone understand the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling about some guy in Saskatchewan who says vicious things about gay people (no joke)? According to the venerable justices, it's free speech to go ahead and offend other people, but it's illegal if, in the process, it exposes those people to hatred. By that test, is it OK for Shakespeare to declare "Kill all the lawyers," unless someone actually does?

3 Pope no more. Meanwhile, the pope has left the building. The Vatican, that is. For the first time in 600 years, the Pope resigned. Not much has changed, however. Pope Emeritus Benedict will still be called His Holiness, still gets to wear a white cassock and still thinks gay marriage is a care-free union between a man and a woman.

4 In other goofy Italian news. Silvio Berlusconi, the exact opposite of the pope, made a surprising comeback and finished a close second in the Italian election. The stock market wasn't the only institution that reacted badly to the news that the bunga-bunga party guy is back. The pope didn't resign. He quit in disgust.

5 Beam us up, Scotty. Former space tourist and multi-millionaire Dennis Tito is teaming up with SpaceX to send a middle-aged married couple to Mars as early as 2018, an entirely privately funded expedition. Well, to Mars's vicinity, anyway; the closest the lucky couple will get is 100 miles. They'll orbit the Red Planet, then turn around and come home. Imagine a 501-day road trip in a Mini with your spouse and you can only begin to comprehend what a perilous mission this is.

6 Who knew? It's not Atlantis, it's Mauritia. Not a sneeze but a lost continent that sank off the coast of Madagascar. Mauritia wasn't really much as continents go, only about a quarter the size of Madagascar, but when you lose something that big, why does it take 85 million years to notice? So Atlantis could be down there somewhere. We just have to wait for James Cameron to find it.

7 Taylor Swift got yer goat. Gotta love the Internet. A magnificent tool for sharing knowledge and YouTube videos of Goats Yelling Like Humans, including a mix of Taylor Swift singing and goats yelling. The challenge is to tell them apart. I'm not making this up: youtu.be/LEdqn-Gtg-s

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Jokes and skits about Jews, gays, boobs, African-Americans and Abraham Lincoln's assassination equal ratings. Sounds right. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

A polar molar checkup



MCT VIA GETTY IMAGES

Animal procedure

Polar bear gets root-canal routine

For his routine dentist checkup, this fearsome predatory animal needed a general anesthetic — for his comfort and the safety of others. Boris, one of three resident polar bears at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Wash., underwent a root-canal exam last weekend to repair an infected canine tooth. **MWN**

Boris the polar bear

- **Length.** About nine feet.
- **Weight.** 922 pounds.
- **Born.** Dec. 15, 1985, at the Rostock Zoo in Germany.
- **Arrival at current zoo.** November 2002 after being rescued from a circus in Puerto Rico.
- **Life expectancy.** As long as 40 years (captivity), 30 (in the wild).

Sequence of events

12 staff members help bear weight

A veterinarian went to the zoo's Arctic Tundra exhibit last Saturday and shot Boris with a tranquilizer. The bear was then given a sedative before a dozen able-bodied staff members hoisted the enormous animal onto a stretcher. Afterward, the bear was put on a padded operating table and placed on a ventilator to allow medical staff to examine him. **MWN**

Procedure in numbers

4.5

hours is how long Boris's procedure took.

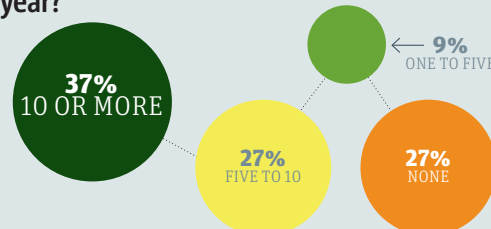
Apart from his root-canal treatment, Boris had a lump removed from his eye to improve his vision, and got his claws trimmed.

Boris was on his paws walking about two hours after the medical work, eating soft foods and receiving painkillers.



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How many books will you likely read this year?



Twitter

@JayWll: It's a beautiful morning in #yyc. Tunes cranked to 30 in the car which, from experience, is enough for a noise abatement ticket.

@OHDEERYyc: if there is one thing #yyc is lacking its coffee baristas with urgency. Get some.

@yycspotter: Not looking forward to the snow coming our way, only in #yyc can

you go from 12 degrees and sunny to snowing 10cm in less than 12 hours

@henteko_mai: wha...could this be...no, it can't... but it must be...it feels like... like...SPRING!! *knock on wood* #yyc #spring

@pamelaraee: LOVING the sunshine in #yyc! Just have to make sure I don't end Feb. off with a sunburn... #white-girlproblems #yikes #sunshine

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Nicholas Hoult stars in *Jack the Giant Slayer*. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD
CROUSE AND
MARK BRESLIN



Fee, fi, fo, humdrum?

Jack the Giant Slayer.

This retelling of a classic fairy tale gets mixed reviews

Richard: Mark, this is what used to be called a "ripping good yarn." It's got all the ingredients of classic fairy tales — a pretty princess, heroics galore, a dash of romance and loads of giant slaying! It's a change from the usual Hollywood fairy tale retellings in that it remains fairly true to the source — there's no Snow White and the Huntsman style ennui here — but what starts out as a family friendly romp turns much darker near the end and won't be appropriate for younger Jack and the Beanstalk fans.

Mark: I agree with "ripping." I'm fine with "yarn." It's "good" I have trouble with. I thought it was made for

people who enjoyed *Clash of the Titans* but found it a wee bit too cerebral. Here's my plot synopsis: A giant beanstalk opens up a portal between Earth and the skies above, and one hour and 46 minutes of the audience's time is lost forever ... I may never eat edamame again.

RC: But edamame is delicious! And so are parts of this movie. A small family could live underneath Nicholas Hoult's cheekbones and the giants are really cool. It's a large-scale CGI epic like *Clash of the Titans*, but I thought this one was far more successful in creating a world for the characters to live in. It's a simple story of good versus evil, and in a battle between *Clash*'s Kraken and this movie's giants, I'd bet on the giants.

MB: The giants give good grunt, I'll give you that, but there's not a lot of good dia-

logue in this picture and the acting is rote. Let's face it, the beanstalk has the best part.

RC: The beanstalk certainly takes top billing, but I thought it was fun to see Ewen Bremner — Spud from *Trainspotting* — in a juicy villain role, backing up an evil Stanley Tucci, who seems to be having fun here. I saw it as a large-scale English pantomime without the songs. There's slapstick, elaborate costumes and you're supposed to boo at the bad guys and cheer for the heroes. It won't become a staple in my DVD collection, but I enjoyed watching the giant chef prepare pigs-in-a-blanket with live pigs!

MB: Richard, that's the one witty note in the picture, and it made me laugh too. So much more could have been made of the giants' surreal world, but the film is surprisingly ... earthbound.

Synopsis

The action in this epic retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk begins when the king's advisor Roderick (Stanley Tucci) hatches a plot to steal an enchanted crown and six magic beans that hold the key to opening a gateway between Earth and Gantua, the land of the giants. Enter poor farmer Jack (Nicholas Hoult) who becomes involved when he unwittingly sows a seed that sprouts a giant beanstalk, literally shooting the princess Isabelle (Eleanor Tomlinson) skyward into the humongous hands of the giants. Determined to rescue her, Jack battles the giants, wins the respect of the king and the love of a princess.

• Richard: ●●●●●

• Mark: ●●●●●

2 SCENE

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TODAY'S BEST MUSIC

Williams takes on iconic screen character that's oddly ... happy

Oz the Great and Powerful. Actress takes a departure from serious, dour films in her role as Glinda the Good Witch



NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

In *Oz the Great and Powerful*, Michelle Williams takes on one of the most iconic screen characters in Hollywood history, Glinda the Good Witch, first seen in the *Wizard of Oz*. It's not her first time tackling an icon — or even an icon popular with drag queens.

The Wizard of Oz is popular with the drag community. Have you given any thought to the idea of drag queens taking on your role?
Yeah, baby! Yes, yes. Bring it on. I feel like they would put a naughty under the nice.

Have you ever seen a drag



Michelle Williams as Glinda the Good Witch in *Oz the Great and Powerful*. CONTRIBUTED

interpretation of one of your roles?

Marilyn probably doesn't count, but there's clearly a lot out there. While I was making the movie I saw this drag performance of Marilyn on YouTube and I had to shut it down within 10 seconds because I was like, "That motherf—er is better than me. That motherf—er! I will

never match what he's able to do." He was recreating all of her famous numbers to a T. But ... I can't imagine Wendy from *Wendy* and Lucy is big on the drag circuit.

It's oddly refreshing to see you in a movie that's so... Happy?

Your films over the last few

years have leaned toward the serious and dour, yes. Was this a conscious effort to get something a bit lighter on your filmography?
I never think about it from an outside point of view, like, "Now it's time to do something light." But I did feel within my own soul, I felt like I'd had the marrow sucked out of me, especially with

My Week With Marilyn, just because it was so difficult. The core of who she was was very affecting for me to live inside of, so I was feeling more open to doing something that didn't come at a personal cost. For me, I never feel like, "Oh, I have so many things to choose from and I just can't pick. There's just so many great options." It's kind of like desert, desert, desert, desert, oasis! So when that comes along, when I have that feeling from reading a script, whether it's big or small or light or dark, it's really more about if I see an outline of a character that I want to fill in.

I'd assume that you're getting sent all of the best stuff out there.

I haven't worked since I made this movie. I haven't worked in over a year. It was a conscious choice, I definitely wanted to take some time off. This was a long movie to make and I like my life and it takes a lot to take me away from my family. But that choice wasn't ... constantly tested, for better or worse.

Top of the chain

"The thing I was most interested in capturing was the comfort level that comes with the self-recognition that you're the very tip-top of the food chain. I don't know what that's like in real life ... So even when a six-foot-five, 240-pound monster of a man comes into the room, to you it's just like taking a breath."

Benjamin Bratt on playing Mexican cartel kingpin El Topo in *Snitch* (now in theatres) and looking calm in the face of an intimidating Dwayne Johnson
NED EHRBAR



Comedy



21 & Over

Stars. Miles Teller, Skylar Astin, Justin Chon

Directors. Jon Lucas, Scott Moore



The raucous directorial debut from *The Hangover* writers Jon Lucas and Scott Moore gives us one 21st birthday you'll wish you could forget. When former high school buddies Miller and Casey reunite to celebrate their friend Jeff Chang's big day, 24 hours of debauchery puts their friendships and futures to the test. Coming of age has never been so tedious in this lacklustre comedy that relies solely on vomit, male nudity and ethnic stereotypes for laughs. This unimaginative college try is about as juvenile as it gets.

MANORI RAVINDRAN/METRO

Drama



Cloudburst

Stars. Olympia Dukakis, Brenda Fricker

Director. Thom Fitzgerald



Partners for decades, Dot and Stella make a break for Canada to get hitched so that ailing Dot's family can't kick foul-mouthed Stella out of the family home. Based on director Thom Fitzgerald's play of the same name, *Cloudburst* is a sweet and sometimes funny look at what happens when the impossible suddenly becomes possible — in this case, allowing two women to legally marry. Fitzgerald's script is a tad rote, but Dukakis and Fricker deliver spectacular performances, with newcomer Ryan Doucette adding some needed comic relief.

IAN GORMLEY/METRO

Cannes. Spielberg to head up jury of France's prestigious film festival

France's Cannes Film Festival has finally snagged Steven Spielberg to serve as president of the award jury.

Gilles Jacob, the festival's president, said he had been trying to get the award-winning director to head the jury for years — but the American was always working. Finally, this year, Spielberg got in touch.

"When this year I was told 'E.T., phone home,' I understood and immediately replied: 'At last!'" Jacob said in a statement posted on the festival's website Thursday.

Spielberg, who was nominated but didn't win the directing Oscar for his biopic *Lincoln* this week, takes the reins from Italian Nanni Moretti. The 66th Cannes festival takes place in the glamorous French Mediterranean resort from May 15 to 26.

Spielberg's presence will likely give more of an American flavour this year to the Cannes festival, a melange of intellectual international cinema and Hollywood glamour.

Jury presidents in the festival's seven-decade history have included such figures as Tennessee Williams, Ingrid Bergman, Roman Polanski and Francis Ford Coppola.



Steven Spielberg GETTY IMAGES

Spielberg has had several films show at Cannes, and *E.T.* had its world premiere there in 1982. His first film, *Sugarland Express*, won best screenplay at Cannes in 1974.

"It is an honour and a privilege to preside over the jury of a festival that proves, again and again, that cinema is the language of the world," Spielberg said in a statement.

"The most prestigious of its kind, the festival has always established the motion picture as a cross cultural and generational medium."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The last exorcism ... was just the beginning

Ashley Bell returns as Nell Sweetzer in *The Last Exorcism Part II*, which opens in theatres this weekend. The film picks up from 2010's surprise hit about demonic possession, as Nell tries to gather the pieces of her life and start fresh, only to be targeted by the same evil that possessed her the first time. METRO

Just give it to the best Canadian mime



Martin Short
GETTY IMAGES

Canadian Screen Awards. Gemini and Genies replaced by one big event

The inaugural Canadian Screen Awards combine the previous Gemini and Genie Awards into one joint TV and film celebration, but that's not enough for comic Naomi Snieckus.

In the name of efficiency, she suggests throwing in the theatre world's Dora Awards — as well as a miming competition for good measure — to create an all-encompassing prize.

"It's going to be called the Mime-sies. Or the Dora-ginies,"

says Snieckus, best known as smart-aleck gym teacher Bobbi on CBC-TV's Mr. D.

For those still wrapping their heads around Canada's newest entertainment prize, the Canadian Screen Awards honour the best in homegrown film, television and digital projects and will be broadcast Sunday on CBC-TV.

It replaces the previous Gemini Awards, which saluted Canuck-made TV, and the Genie Awards, which celebrated Canuck-made movies.

"We are in a time when no one has time for two awards nights. We have to put them together — we get it down, we party hard for one night. Compact," explains Snieckus, who will co-host CBC's online live

stream from the red carpet.

"You know, I think it could be done in 10 minutes," adds fellow comic Matt Baram, from the City sitcom Seed.

"We don't need a long awards show just because we've combined all the awards. In fact, why don't they just make one award and give it to the best Canadian?"

The revamped bash is part of sweeping changes the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television brought in to draw bigger audiences to "a bigger show with bigger impact."

Martin Short adds Hollywood heft as show host and a slew of cross-border stars have been recruited to present trophies: Sandra Oh, Genevieve Bujold, Jay Baruchel, Adam

Beach, James Cromwell and Catherine O'Hara among them.

Short, who hosted the Gemini in 1989, says he's intent on making the inaugural gala entertaining, noting that he might unleash "a song or two."

And he approves of the combined format, admitting that he's fed up with the seemingly endless parade of award shows in the United States.

"Down here there are too many award shows. I mean, when I was a kid there were the Oscars and the Emmys. And now there are five examples of the Oscars before the Oscars. So it does kind of upstage a little bit and make it a little less special than it used to be." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Kim Cattrall recognized

• Sex and the City star Kim Cattrall is being recognized for her body of work. The actress will receive a special prize for "outstanding artistic contribution to film and television" at the inaugural Canadian Screen Awards.

• The award recognizes "a remarkable person who has made their mark on the film and television industry." Academy head Helga Stephenson says Cattrall "is a fabulously successful Canadian performer who proudly embraces both sides of the border."

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MARCH 1 TO THURS., MAR 7. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 MacLeod Trail

(STC) Fri-Thu 9:15
Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:40
Gangster Squad (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:10-9:45
The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:25-9:50
Jack Reacher (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:40
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:05-7:15-9:55
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:05
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-8:15
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 9:55
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:40

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace,

21 and Over (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-2:50-8:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:30-7:50-10:10
Dark Skies (14A) Fri 12:35-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Sat 10:15-12:35-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Sun 12:35-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:30-9:50
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 12:20 Sat 10:10-12:20 Sun 12:20 Mon-Thu 1:45
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:35-5:7-20-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10 Sat 10:12-25:2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:10-9:35
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:05-5:7-40-10:15
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) No Passes Fri 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:30 No Passes Sat 10:05-12:55-3:45-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:3-40-6:45-9:25 No Passes Wed 3:40-6:45-9:25 No Passes Thu 1:3-40-6:45-9:25
Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:4-45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:15-2:4-45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sun 2:4-45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:25-10:05
The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Fri 12:45-3:15-5:30-7:45-10 Sat 10:20-12:45-3:15-5:30-7:45-10 Sun 12:45-3:15-5:30-7:45-10 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:20-7:45-10
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Parsifal Live

(STC) Sat 10
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Thu 9
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 1:45-4:25-7:05-9:45 Sat 4:25-7:05-9:45 Sun 1:45-4:25-7:05-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:05-7-9:45 Wed 4:05-7-9:45 Thu 1:05-3:45-6:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Shrek 2 (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:25-4:55-7:25 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:05-6:55
Snitch (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mo
Warm Bodies (14A) Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 9:30

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade

(STC) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40
Django Unchained (18A) Fri 7:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:10-7:45 Mon-Thu 8:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-7-10 Mon-Tue 6-8-50 Wed 5:50 Thu 6
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:20-9:10
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-9
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Thu 9
Quartet (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30

Empire Studio 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd.

(STC) Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 2:50-6-9:10
21 and Over (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2-4-50-7-40-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:15
Argo (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:10-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:20-6:10-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:20-6:10
The Attacks of 26/11 (STC) Sub-Titled, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3-5:50-8:55
Dark Skies (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:45-7:50-10:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4:45-7:50-10:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:45-10:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:45-7:50-10:25
Escape From Planet Earth (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-

6:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:40-9:35
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-9:50
I, Me Aur Main (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 3:10-6:20-9:20
Identity Thief (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:35-7:30-10:20
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-6:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:50-9:40
Jack the Giant Slayer: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:05 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 4:15-7:10-10:05 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2:55-5:55
The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:50-5-8-10:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 5-8-10:30
The Movie Out Here (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:15-9:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:30-6:15-9:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue 3:30-6:15-9:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:30-6:15-9:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:30-6:15-9:15
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:15
Oz the Great and Powerful: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9
Safe Haven (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4-7-10
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2:45-6:25-9:50
Snitch (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55-9:45

**Empire Studio 10
MacLeod Trail
100-16061 MacLeod Trail**
21 and Over (18A) Digital Presentation,

Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:50-10:30
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-6:20
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Stadium Seating, Digital Presentation Fri-Thu 3:45-9:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-7-10
Identity Thief (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:30-7:30-10:20
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The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:10-7-10:15
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 10
Safe Haven (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3-6:30-9:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50
Snitch (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

21 and Over (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:10
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:35
Django Unchained (18A) Fri-Sat 4:10-8 Sun-Thu 4:25-8:25
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 2:35 Sat 12-2:35 Sun-Thu 2:35
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5-7:30-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 2:40-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sat 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:30 Sun-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:55-10:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 1:50-4:35-7:15-10 Sat 11:10-1:50-4:35-7:15-10 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:15-10
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:35-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Jack the Giant Slayer: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Sat 11:05-1:45-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Sun-Wed 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:30

The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:20-5:40-8-10-10:20
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 1:45-4:30-7:15-10:05 Sat 11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:05 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Parsifal Live (STC) Sat 10
The Movie Out Here (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-5:50-8-10-10:25
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Thu 9:15
Oz the Great and Powerful: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Thu 9
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:15-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:40
Shrek 2 (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed 1:30-4-10:10 Thu 4-6:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45
Snitch (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
U2 3D (G) Wed-Thu 7:30
Warm Bodies (14A) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:05-5:25-7:55-10:25 Wed 12:35-3:05-10:25 Thu 3:05-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 1:15-4:45-8:15 Sat 5:30-9:30 Sun-Wed 1:15-4:45-8:15 Thu 2:30-9:45

Plaza Theatre

1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.
Cloudburst (14A) Sat 7 Sun 6:30 Mon-Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Sat 9:15 Sun 4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 9

Sunridge Spectrum 2555 32nd Street

(STC) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:55-7:55
21 and Over (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:20-7-9:35
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:25
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri-Sun 12:20 Mon-Thu 1:05
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:45-5:10-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:10
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:30-7:25-10
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:35-7:20-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:55 Wed 4:10-7:10-9:55 Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:20-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 No Passes Sun

2:15-5-7:45-10:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 2-4:45-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 9:40 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:35-6:20
The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Fri 12:40-3-5:30-7:55-10:20 Sat 11:10-12:40-3-5:30-7:55-10:20 Sun 12:40-3-5:30-7:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:25-3:50-6:50-9:30
Love Story of Singh vs Kaur (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-4-8 Mon-Thu 1-4:25-7:50
A Moment in Time (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:25-9:15
The Movie Out Here (18A) Fri 2-4-30-7:30-9:55 Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7:30-9:55 Sun 2-4:30-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:35-7:15-9:45
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Thu 9:10
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-6:50-9:40 Mon-Wed 1:15-4-6:55-9:40 Thu 1:15-4-6:55
Shrek 2 (G) Sat 11
Snitch (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:10-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:40-7:20-10:10 Wed 4:40-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:45-4:40-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
U2 3D (G) Wed-Thu 7:30
Warm Bodies (14A) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:35-9:20 Wed-Thu 1:20-3:55-9:45

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Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 1:30 Sat 11-1:30 Sun 1:30
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 1:10-4:30-7:50-10:15 Sat 4:30-7:50-10:15 Sun 1:10-4:30-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:10
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:25-10 Sat 10:30-1:20-4:20-7:25-10 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:55
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20 No Passes Sat 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20 No Passes Sun 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:25-8:15
The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Fri 12:25-2:40-5-7:20-9:45 Sat 10:10-12:25-2:40-5-7:20-9:45 Sun 12:25-2:40-5-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 6-8:50
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-8 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Parsifal Live (STC) Sat 10
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Thu 9
Quartet (PG) Fri 12:40-3:10-6:30-9:20 Sat 10:15-12:40-3:10-6:30-9:20 Sun 12:40-3:10-6:30-9:20 Mon-Wed 5:30-8 Thu 5:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:35-6:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:40

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A sprawling tale of biblical proportions

Roma Downey.

Touched by an Angel actress talks about new project with Mark Burnett, *The Bible*

Filming in the Moroccan desert with hundreds of extras, dozens of horses and carriages, burning buildings and firebombs made for an "epic" experience on the set of the new miniseries *The Bible*, say creators Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

"It was a production of biblical proportions," Downey, former star of *Touched by an Angel*, said during a recent stop in Toronto with Burnett.

"And a lot of danger," added Burnett, the famed reality show producer who's married to Downey and has three teenagers with her.

"You've got 50 chariots with Arabian horses, thundering at 30 miles an hour across the desert — anything could happen. We were so glad when those sequences finished."

Premiering Sunday on History, *The Bible* is a 10-hour, five-part docudrama that covers Genesis through Revelations.

Downey, who co-produced with Burnett, plays Mother Mary alongside Portuguese TV star Diogo Morgado as Jesus.

"It was such a privilege for me," said Downey, who hails



Roma Downey plays Mother Mary in the History Channel miniseries *The Bible*. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heavy cross

The most challenging part of the six-month shoot in Ouarzazate, Morocco last year was the crucifixion sequence, said Downey. It took three days to shoot on a hillside on the outskirts of town and will air Easter Sunday. "I'm sure we were all emotionally, spiritually and physically exhausted," she says.

from Northern Ireland.

"I have loved Mary my whole life, and the story of

the passion of Jesus."

The international cast also includes Sean Teale, David Rintoul, Amber Rose Revah and Simon Kunz.

Emmy-winning actor/vocalist Keith David narrates to a musical score from Grammy-and-Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer.

"It's a story that so many books — from Shakespeare (to) *Narnia*, *Lord of the Rings* and on a bizarre level, *The Matrix* — are biblically based (on), because these stories are so good," said the London-born Burnett.

"So we chose a selection of these stories. We can't tell

the entire Bible in 10 hours. But the stories are so full of characters that you can just see yourself in."

"Ultimately, these stories are our stories," added Downey. "They're thousands of years old but it's the story of humanity and the struggles they had. And the hopes and the dreams that these people had are the same that we have today."

Downey said they consulted scholars and theologians "every step of the way" so they would remain as truthful as possible to the spirit of the book.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV Picks

Get heeled on Shark Tank

Shoes with interchangeable heels are among the inventions presented on Friday's episode of the entrepreneurial investment series *Shark Tank*. Other business ideas include a line of sugar-free nut butters, a fashionable wristband that supposedly alleviates nausea and a tattoo-removal device. (CTV, ABC)



This week on *Touch*, Martin (played by Kiefer Sutherland) searches for his gifted son.

HANDOUT

A meeting of the minds on Touch

On the Kiefer Sutherland numbers-filled drama *Touch*, which recently returned for a second season Friday nights, autistic mathematical genius Jake contacts the equally gifted Amelia and they meet without their parents knowing. As Martin (Sutherland) and Lucy (Maria Bello) search for their children, they find information on Calvin's brain-damaged brother. (Global, Fox)

On the hunt for fun in P.E.I.

Canadian pop singer Victoria Duffield performs in the finale of *Cross Country Fun Hunt*, a CBC online initiative that asked kids to share their favourite local "fun spots" by uploading videos and pictures online. The winning spot, as chosen by 14,000 online votes, was Stratford, P.E.I. This finale airing Saturday features footage from a recent concert as well as a tour of Stratford. (CBC)

Enter the Ninja Warrior

American *Ninja Warrior*, which calls itself the "toughest challenge on Earth," is airing highlights and previously unseen footage from its fourth season on Saturday. Hosted by Olympic gold skiing medalist Jonny Moseley and comedian Matt Iseman, the obstacle course competition series aims to crown one athlete a "true American *Ninja Warrior*" and offer a \$500,000 cash prize. (NBC)

Real talk with Alicia Keys

New episodes of the celebrity interview series *Oprah's Master Class* return Sunday, with an instalment featuring Alicia Keys. The Grammy-winning R&B singer opens up about being raised by a single mother in New York City, letting go of anger she had toward her father and following her passion for singing. (OWN)

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Hello, old friend

"What's happened in the last 10 years?" asks David Brent, Ricky Gervais' best boss ever. "Mainly rapping." The Office star and creator makes a comeback to support the anti-poverty charity Comic Relief. Visit metronews.ca to see just a teaser of more to come. METRO

Let's Make A Deal. Original host drops in to celebrate anniversary

It's been 50 years since Monty Hall first started asking people if they wanted what was behind Door No. 1, Door No. 2 or Door No. 3.

The Canadian-born host returns to Let's Make a Deal Friday (shown on City and CBS) to celebrate the incredible TV milestone.

Hall recently taped his scenes at CBS Television City studios, sharing the stage with current host Wayne

Brady, now in his fourth season.

"What was extra nice about it was that I had on the show with me a few of the original people who worked on my staff," Hall said this week from his home in California.

Among those featured Friday will be Carol Merrill, the model who stood next to the prizes during the original run of the series from 1963 to 1977. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Dishing with The Donald on showbiz

The Apprentice. As Trump gears up for the All-Star edition of the popular reality show, he chats about his killer instincts — and, of course, his hair

There is something Donald Trump says he doesn't know.

Trump has welcomed a reporter to his 26th-floor corner office in Trump Tower to talk about All-Star Celebrity Apprentice. And here in person, this one-of-a-kind TV star, billionaire businessman, ubiquitous brand mogul and media maestro strikes a softer pose than he has typically practised in his decades on public display.

Relaxed behind a broad desk whose mirror sheen is mostly hidden by stacks of paper that suggest work is actually done there, Trump is pleasant, even chummy, with a my-time-is-your-time ease in greeting his guest.

He even contradicts his status as a legendary know-it-all with this surprising admission: there's a corner of the universe he doesn't understand.

The ratings woes of NBC, which airs his show, are on Trump's mind at the moment, and as he hastens to voice confidence in the network's powers-that-be ("They will absolutely get it right"), he marvels at the mysteries of the entertainment world.



Hey look! It's businessman and TV personality Donald Trump, just kickin' it in his office. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

It's hard out here for a Trump

"I understand talent. Does anybody ask me? No. But if they did, I would be doing them a big service."

Donald Trump, creator of The Apprentice

"If I buy a great piece of real estate and do the right building, I'm really gonna have a success," he says. "It

may be more successful or less successful, but you can sort of predict how it's gonna do. But show business is like trial and error! It's amazing!"

He loves to recall the iffy prospects for The Apprentice when it debuted in January 2004. With showbiz, he declares, "You never know what's gonna happen."

Except, of course, when you do.

"I do have an instinct," he confides. "Oftentimes, I'll

see shows go on and I'll say, 'That show will never make it,' and I'm always right. And I understand talent. Does anybody ask me? No. But if they did, I would be doing them a big service. I know what people want."

Trump even seems to profit from the harsh attention focused on his hair.

"I get killed on my hair!" he says, with no trace of remorse. But he wants everyone to know, "It's not a wig!"

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SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

It's been a long winter. As you can see by this week's recommendation, cabin fever is taking its toll. I really need to get away, apparently. I promise to be more normal next time.

You Can't Be My Girl/Darwin Deez

The New York native and former rapper released Songs for Imaginative People last month. This video proves its point.



I Knew You Were a Goat [Sic] When You Walked In/Taylor Swift

Wait for it. Wait ... wait ... THERE IT IS! When did Taylor date and break up with him?



Death Metal Chicken/Some random rooster

Whoever said that chickens were docile birds never met this guy.



In control of No One In Control

Snowden. Metro talks to Jordan Jeffares about his sound, and a follow up six years in the making

HEIDI PATALANO
scene@metronews.ca

Snowden mastermind Jordan Jeffares is emerging after more than six years off the scene with a new album.

After his 2006 release Anti-Anti, which was roundly praised by critics, Jeffares disappeared altogether, because of a conflict with his record label.

Known for introspective, echoing songs, loaded with the prettiest brand of longing and despair this side of The Cure, Snowden is now receiving advance praise for sophomore release, No One In Control, which comes out in May.

Jeffares says he never gave up making music. He just couldn't find a way to put it out.

"If you put it out naked, there's a good chance that no one will ever hear it," he says from his Austin, Texas, home. "It's very hard to get a record out properly anymore. Any-



Jordan Jeffares releases his new album after more than six years away from the scene. HANDOUT

one can release a record — I could've put it out at any time — but without a push behind it, i.e. some finances, it can be hard."

Do you find that the longer you've worked on a song, the better it is?

I hope it is. I have a group of peers that I pass things around to and I'll keep

changing things until they smile.

But this new album feels like the follow up to Anti-Anti even though it's been more than six years.

I still think in the same rhythms. I still think in the same way because I work alone. Even though I try really hard just to step outside of

my own head, there's only so much I can do and I find myself returning to similar themes over and over again. Even with this much time and this much work on this record, I have strong themes that I'm drawn to, sonically, and that's how the record gets to sounding like it sounds now. That's why it sounds like a follow up, because it really is.

Do you think being in Austin will help you write different kinds of material?

Well, when I got here and I was trying to understand where my head was at as far as my writing goes, I read this Steve Earle quote about Austin. He said, "the weather was great, the women were beautiful and the drugs were too cheap and I wouldn't get anything done in a town like that." It explains why nothing good comes out of beach towns, including L.A., arguably. When life is so good, it's hard to find flux to create new moods. I've been trying to learn how to rethink here, to write without flux in my life.

You've been described as enjoying a sort of cold, snowy ambience in your songwriting. What songs or artists evoke that for you?

I've always been a big fan of The Cure's early to mid career, and of course My Bloody Valentine. I'm a huge Yo La Tengo fan. One of the bands that I'm constantly throwing out to my friends, trying to get them to pick up on is The Clientele. I don't understand how they're not one of the biggest bands in the world.

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Sound Uncovered



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Kris Abel
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Toni, Toni, Toni: Morrison charms at Google Hangout



Toni Morrison spoke to dozens of Google employees on Wednesday.
GETTY IMAGES

Nobel laureate. Author of Beloved promotes her latest book, shares ideas about technology and creativity

Novelist Toni Morrison, speaking Wednesday to dozens of Google employees holding laptops and smartphones, shared her vision for how she would turn the search engine leader into a literary character.

"It's like a big, metal, claw-machine in Transformers," she said to much laughter, during a lunchtime gathering at Google's Manhattan offices. "When they're threatened, they turn into a little radio, they turn into a little car. And then after you pass them by they come up again."

"They can be anything and everything."

The 82-year-old Nobel laureate was the latest, and most literary in memory, of a long line of famous guests from Stephen Colbert to Lady Gaga who since

2005 have dropped in on Google Inc. in New York and the home offices in Mountain View, Calif. After her talk, she stayed on to take questions online, part of Google's Hangout series.

Morrison, battling the flu and sniffing through much of the afternoon, was promoting the paperback edition of her novel *Home*, published last year. She also spoke about technology, teaching and creativity.

Most of the attendees were young enough to be her grandchildren, and she clearly enjoyed startling them with candid talk about what she likes in literature (please don't bore her with stories about dating) and about how to use sex in fiction. The first lesson: forget "boobs and butts."

"When you write about physical attraction, someone falling in love, or making love, it's just so relentlessly boring," she said.

"So why don't you do something different? When I wrote *Beloved* I had these guys watching Sethe (the main character) in a cornfield making love to this guy. You can't see her, they can see the tops of the corn, and then the language goes on. ... It's all about corn. And I had a guy say I'll never see corn the same way."

Unlike Philip Roth, who announced recently he was done with fiction, Morrison has no plan to quit. She is working on a new novel but says she's having a hard time. The problem isn't the narrative itself but the time in which she's set the story — the present, an era she's still trying to understand.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romance is so corny

"When you write about someone falling in love ... it's just so relentlessly boring."

Nobel laureate and author Toni Morrison

Self-publishing. Typing on rabbits: the Not Tilda Swinton story



Tilda Swinton's name was used for a parody Twitter account. Now it's a book. GETTY IMAGES

Twitter files. Eli Yudin publishes the tweets from an online parody that was created in the actress's name

NATALIE SHURE

Metro World News in New York City

Launched to viral acclaim during last May's lunar eclipse, Twitter parody account @NotTildaSwinton has been reincarnated into a book.

Self-published by comedian Eli Yudin and co-writer Carey O'Donnell, the complete collection of 187 bizarre imagined musings of actress and noted eccentric Tilda Swinton is available online.

Some of the account's best Tweets? "A mission for you. Go outside, hold an animal to your breast. That is real warmth, not the glow of your screen. I typed this on a rabbit."

Or: "Of course I have received splinters. I do not remove them. Small branches emerge from me and bear fruit in

the shape of my face."

In an industry veering toward bite-sized content, Twitter's 140-character limit could be the logical endpoint of increasingly serialized work.

So, after spending six hours laying out the book on InDesign, Yudin set up shop on Lulu Marketplace. At \$11.06, the book was priced to break even.

"We didn't want to seem like we were selling out," Yudin said. Not to mention the avoidance of potentially thorny issues with Swinton herself.

Not Tilda Swinton is one of thousands of self-published books for sale on Lulu Marketplace, which allows any author to sell their work online. Brian Matthews, an executive VP at Lulu's, argues that self-publishing has democratized publishing by removing barriers between readers and authors.

"If an author wants to publish a book, we'll help them publish it as long as we don't have concerns related to the material," Matthews said.

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Kristen Stewart

Stewart rejecting new advances from Sanders

Kristen Stewart has reportedly been dodging advances from her *Snow White* and the Huntsman director, Rupert Sanders, now that his marriage to Liberty Ross is toast following his and Stewart's cheating scandal last summer, according to Radar Online.

"Rupert's reached out to Kristen, but she doesn't

want anything to do with him," a source says. "He texted her a number of times after Liberty filed for divorce, however Kristen didn't respond. In truth, she regrets ever getting involved with Rupert because of how much it hurt Robert (Pattinson) and the amount of public backlash she was subjected to."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Would Tina Fey consider hosting next year's Oscars? 'No way'

Don't get your hopes up for Tina Fey to host the Oscars next year, as the 30 Rock star says there's no way she'll take the job.

"I just feel like that gig is so hard," she tells the

Huffington Post. "Especially for, like, a woman. The amount of months that would be spent trying on dresses alone — no way."

Fey earned rave reviews for her work co-hosting the Golden Globes in January with pal Amy Poehler, and after Seth MacFarlane's controversy-courting Oscars hosting performance Sunday many naturally looked to Fey as an improvement for next year, but she insists there's no chance. "I wish I could tell you there was," Fey says.



Scott Weiland ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Stone Temple Pilots singer reads of his firing

The rock band Stone Temple Pilots announced this week that they were firing singer Scott Weiland, and no one was more surprised by the news than Weiland himself.

"I learned of my supposed 'termination' from Stone Temple Pilots this morning by reading about it in the press," Weiland

says in a statement to E! News. "Not sure how I can be 'terminated' from a band that I founded, fronted and co-wrote many of its biggest hits, but that's something for the lawyers to figure out. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to seeing all of my fans on my solo tour, which starts this Friday."

Twitter



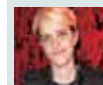
@jason_mrass

For me, the days that begin bad always seem to conclude with magical evenings. Thanks weird day!



@ActuallyNPH

The Nat Enq is cray cray. We've never had a wedding date, just engaged (Prop 8 and all). We're on a cruise as I write. He's rad. All good.



@samantharonson

I have now taken every allergy medicine available in the US- still no relief- but if i die tonight, u know why.



@GarryShandling

Maybe the Pope is tired because he stands when he drives.

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A colourful way to start Nutrition Month

Mediterranean Roasted Beef and Veggies. March is devoted to healthy eating so whip up this delicious meal

When shopping, try to purchase healthy items from the perimeter of the grocery store and supplement with staples from the inner aisles.

Here is an easy and flavourful recipe keeping in mind those principles.

This colourful, nutritious dinner cooks all at once in the oven, making for little preparation or cleanup. Serve it with cooked couscous, quinoa, rice or pasta.

1. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine garlic, tomatoes, onion, eggplant, red pepper, yellow pep-

Ingredients

- 6 cloves garlic, peeled
- 3 plum (Roma) tomatoes, cored and quartered
- 1 small Spanish onion, cut into 12 wedges
- 1 baby eggplant, cut into chunks
- 1 each red and yellow bell peppers, cut into chunks
- 250 g (8 oz) zucchini (about 2 small), cut crosswise into 1-cm (1/2-inch) slices
- 125 g (4 oz) mushrooms, quartered
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) basil pesto, 10 ml (2 tsp) olive oil
- 1.5 kg (3 lb) boneless beef sirloin tip
- Pinch each salt and pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) liquid honey



This recipe serves six. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

per, zucchini, mushrooms and 45 ml (3 tbsp) of the pesto; toss to coat. Spread evenly on prepared baking sheet; set aside.

3. In an ovenproof sauté pan or skillet with a rack, heat oil over medium-high heat. Season beef with salt and pepper. Cook beef, turning with tongs, for about 10 minutes or until browned all over.

Spread remaining pesto over roast. Place on rack in the same sauté pan.

4. Roast beef and vegetables in a 140 C (275 F) oven for about 1 1/2 hours or until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the roast registers 60 C (140 F) for medium-rare, or until desired doneness. Transfer roast to a cutting board, tent with

foil and let stand for 10 to 15 minutes.

5. Using a rubber spatula, scrape vegetables into a large bowl. Add vinegar and honey; toss to coat.

6. Carve roast across grain into thin slices. Serve with vegetables. THE CANADIAN PRESS/COOK! BY DIETITIANS OF CANADA (ROBERT ROSE INC., 2011).

Liquid Assets

The skinny on wine



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Sorry beer and spirit fans, with its reputation as a heart healthy, food-friendly beverage, wine sits at the top of the booze chain in the debate over which tittle is "best for you."

When it comes to a wine's nutritional value, you've got to think about the alcohol. That's where the calories come from folks, so a higher level means more sit-ups.

My friends at WineFolly.com have become one of the go-to wine blogs with their witty commentary and knack for turning mind-bending vino info into cool graphics. Their latest post is a chart that breaks down a variety of wine styles and lays out the truth about how many calories are in each glass. Wine Folly also takes cartography to a new level with a series of detailed maps to your favourite grape growing countries. They've just added Spain. Check out their website over a glass of Bodegas Piqueras 2008 Castillo de Almansa Reserva (\$11.95 - \$14.99) from the Albacete region in Spain's southeast.

With its balanced, dark berry fruit and light, woody backbone, you just might forget that at 14 per cent alc./vol. you're drinking between 165-195 calories. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Stir-fry your way to a quick and nutritious dinner

1. In bowl, whisk a little milk into cornstarch to make a

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) cornstarch
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) liquid honey
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter, divided
- 500 g (1 lb) boneless skinless

- chicken, cut in thin strips
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 each sweet red, yellow and green pepper, cut in thin strips
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) rice vinegar
- Hot pepper sauce, to taste (optional)

smooth paste. Whisk in the remaining milk, reduced sodium soy sauce and honey; set aside.

2. Heat wok over high heat. Add half butter; swirl to coat. Add chicken and garlic and stir-fry 3 mins. or until browned; transfer to bowl. Add remaining butter to pan, then peppers. Stir-fry 5 mins. or until tender. Return chicken and any juices to pan. Reduce heat to medium.



This Honey-Garlic Chicken & Sweet Pepper Stir-Fry serves 4. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3. Whisk milk mix and pour into pan. Cook, stirring, 5 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink inside and sauce is thickened. Stir in vinegar and

hot pepper sauce, to taste, if using.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA 2013 MILK CALENDAR, MILKCALENDAR.CA.

3
FREE

Would you like to be kept in the loop of the hottest openings and events in your city? To be notified of other notable events for young professionals go to: notable.ca/signup.php



NOTABLE NOW

Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals



Now open: Yellow Door

The latest restaurant to be launched by the Hotel Arts Group, Yellow Door Bistro, seats up to 120 seats for breakfast, lunch and dinner service. Executive chef Duncan Ly prepares bistro-inspired cuisine with a reverence for classical ingredients but served up with contemporary twists. 119-12th Ave. SW.



Canadian plays at their best

Love live theatre? Catch a performance or two at the 27th annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays, running from March 6 to April 7. It's the only event of its kind — bringing together actors from across Canada to develop and premiere four dynamic new pieces of theatre. And it's right here in Calgary! This celebration of Canadian stories and creativity includes performances, topical symposia about the plays and state of theatre in Canada — plus the opportunity to see fresh work in progress.



Have AdDrinx or two

This is your chance to battle for supremacy at the AdDrinx first annual Games Night. It's Calgary's best excuse to meet up, catch up and drink up with other members of the advertising industry. The event will be transforming Commonwealth (731 10 Ave. SW) on March 7 by busting out the foosball and ping pong tables to host two insanely competitive tournaments, BoozFoos and Ping&Pong.



Last chance: 2013 Calgary Home and Garden Show

Looking to make some home improvements? Head to the BMO Centre, Stampede Park (1410 Olympic Way SE) until Sunday and explore a modern prefab home, learn about the latest products from local home and garden suppliers or kick start your renovation at project help desks. Celebrity guests include Bryan Baeumler of Leave it to Bryan and Paul LaFrance of Decked Out.



Big Taste

Consider yourself a bit of a foodie? Calgary's chefs are meeting foodie demands with new culinary creations, multi-course meals and set-menu dining for the Big Taste — Calgary's premier food festival. It only lasts for 10 days, so book your table(s) at any of the 70 participating restaurants in and around Calgary's downtown. March 1 to 10.



Belgo Brasserie Beer Society

As one of the city's first locations to offer a comprehensive list of unique and delicious beers, Belgo (501 8 Ave. SW) brings you the first annual Beer Society in conjunction with the launch of their new beer menu. Taste all sorts of beers offered at Belgo. (Tickets \$20/ person). Wednesday.

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CFL

More praise for Argonauts coach Milanovich

Scott Milanovich of the Grey Cup-champion Toronto Argonauts is the CFL's coach of the year.

Milanovich received the award at a luncheon in Regina Thursday.

John Hufnagel of the Calgary Stampeders and Mike Benevides of the B.C. Lions were the other finalists.

Voting was conducted by the Football Reporters of Canada.

Milanovich is the second Argo to capture the award in three years. Current GM Jim Barker claimed the 2010 honour.

Toronto finished second in the East Division with a 9-9 record under its rookie head coach. Following playoff wins over Edmonton and Montreal, the Argos capped their season by downing Calgary 35-22 in the 100th Grey Cup game at Rogers Centre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Kadri scores three as Leafs survive in OT on Long Island

Nazem Kadri notched his first career hat trick and Dion Phaneuf scored at 1:11 of overtime to give the Toronto Maple Leafs a 5-4 victory over the New York Islanders on Thursday night.

Phaneuf's fourth goal of the season lifted Toronto to its third straight win and fourth in five games at New York. The Maple Leafs have six wins in their last nine games against the Islanders.

James van Riemsdyk also scored for the Maple Leafs, who improved to 9-4 on the road.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



David Jones of the Avalanche puts the puck past Flames goalie Joey MacDonald for a second-period goal on Thursday in Denver. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Flames lose O'Reilly and game to Avs

NHL. Feaster's offer sheet falls flat and Calgary wastes strong start in Denver

Gabriel Landeskog had a goal and two assists, and the Colorado Avalanche scored three times in the third period to rally past the Calgary Flames 5-4 on Thursday night.

Matt Duchene and Paul Stastny each had a goal and an assist for Colorado, which improved to 6-2-1 at home.

The game had added intrigue when it was announced

On Thursday

5

Avalanche

4

Flames

before the opening faceoff that the Flames had signed restricted free agent Ryan O'Reilly to an offer sheet. While Calgary was taking a 2-0 lead early in the first period, the Avalanche announced they had matched the offer and were keeping the 22-year-old forward.

The deal is reported to be \$10 million US over two years, including a \$2-million signing bonus.

Calgary general manager Jay Feaster said the decision to put forth an offer sheet came after he tried to trade for O'Reilly.

"We had extensive trade discussions with Colorado but felt the price to acquire the player via trade was too steep," he said. "We felt it would negatively impact our future, so we made the decision to go ahead with the offer sheet. We tried to structure it in a way that we felt would give us a better chance to get him."

Jarome Iginla scored twice and Jay Bouwmeester and Mike Cammalleri each had a goal for the Flames, who had won seven straight in Denver and earned at least one point in eight consecutive games at Colorado.

The excitement off the ice was nearly matched on it. Bouwmeester and Cammalleri scored 33 seconds apart to put the Flames ahead 2-0 just five minutes into the game.

Iginla made it 3-0 late in the first before Ryan O'Byrne and David Jones scored goals early in the second to cut it to 3-2.

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4 SPORTS

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Red Sox prospect embraces knuckler after Dickey's success

MLB. Elusive pitch gaining popularity again after Blue Jay ace's Cy Young season

Boston Red Sox prospect Steven Wright knew he was taking a risk when he converted to a knuckleball pitcher a year and a half ago.

In a league filled with hard-throwing hurlers, mastering a slower, more unpredictable pitch seemed difficult to justify.

But R.A. Dickey's Cy Young-winning season with the 2012 New York Mets has boosted Wright's confidence.

"There was so much uncertainty to it before, but with R.A. doing what he did last year, he solidified the fact that you can be very effective at it, and very consistent with it," Wright said.

The 38-year-old Dickey was 20-6 with New York last year before he was traded in the off-season to the Toronto Blue Jays.

"With the knuckleball you just don't know," Wright said. "It could be great, it could be



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Steven Wright throws a pitch against the Toronto Blue Jays during Grapefruit League action on Monday in Dunedin, Fla. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

not great. But last year, R.A. proved that with the knuckleball, he can be just as effective as (Justin) Verlander, (Stephen) Strasburg, and the velocity that comes with those guys."

Tim Wakefield, who spent 17 seasons as a knuckleballer for the Red Sox, agrees that

Dickey has been invaluable to the cause.

In Fort Myers, Fla., for three days helping Wright make "minor adjustments," Wakefield stood on the mound with the 28-year-old during Wednesday's bullpen session, monitoring his delivery.

As someone who knows first hand the complexities of the knuckleball, Wakefield is delighted by Dickey's success.

"He validated the knuckleball and made it popular," the retired right-hander said. "There were so few of us that actually threw the pitch for

Quoted

"For a knuckleballer, it was like Christmas. It was exciting for me."

Steven Wright on pitching against R.A. Dickey in spring training on Monday.

a living — guys like Wilbur Wood, Phil Niekro, Charlie Hough, Tom Candiotti, myself and now R.A. — it's a close-knit fraternity, so I was very proud."

Though the knuckleball brotherhood may be small, Wakefield believes its members have a responsibility to ensure their breed doesn't die out.

By helping Wright this week, Wakefield is doing his part, just as he did for Dickey in 2008 when the then-struggling Seattle Mariner approached him for advice.

"I'm very open when it comes to helping other knuckleballers," Wakefield said. "It's always nice to be able to bounce ideas off somebody that is walking in the shoes that you walked in for so long."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spring training

Jays dump Yankees in Tampa

David Phelps allowed two hits over three scoreless innings Thursday as a New York Yankees split squad lost 1-0 to the Toronto Blue Jays.

Phelps struck out one and walked one, and has not given up a run in five innings over two starts. He could earn a spot in the rotation to start the season if Phil Hughes remains sidelined by a bulging disk. Hughes is working out in a pool and might resume throwing in a few days.

Brandon Morrow gave up two hits in two shutout innings for Toronto and Andy LaRoche hit a seventh-inning homer off Chase Whitley. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Toronto's Jose Bautista watches a pop-up on Thursday in Tampa, Fla. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

DiPietro says suicide comments weren't literal

New York Islanders goaltender Rick DiPietro says comments he made about considering suicide in a recent interview were used for effect and were not meant to be taken literally.

The comments came to light Thursday when New York-based sports anchor Kevin Maher tweeted excerpts from an interview with DiPietro about being waived by the Islanders.

According to Maher's Twitter feed, DiPietro said being waived felt like "they ripped my heart out, stabbed it, set it on fire and flushed it down the toilet." Maher followed with a tweet saying DiPietro considered suicide as injuries, ineffective play and fan animosity took its toll.

DiPietro later clarified to ESPN and the New York Post that he wasn't serious about the suicide comment and was attempting to show how his wife has helped him through "a trying last couple of years."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rick DiPietro
GETTY IMAGES

Cycling. Will Livestrong survive post-Armstrong? 'Hell yes,' says charity prez

Leaders of the cancer charity founded by Lance Armstrong said Thursday that the organization will persevere in the wake of the cyclist's admission that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I am on safe ground to say that the past year did not go as planned," Livestrong's executive vice-president Andy Miller said at the Livestrong Foundation's annual meeting in Chicago — its first such gathering since Armstrong's troubled departure. "Things happen that we cannot control — cancer has taught us that. What do we do? We adapt."

He added later, "The Livestrong Foundation is not going anywhere."

Livestrong's president, Doug Ulman, echoed that sentiment in prepared remarks for the more than 500 participants.

"Our success has never been based on one person," said Ulman, who was unable to deliver the speech in person because of travel delays. "Will the Livestrong Foundation survive? Yes. Absolutely, yes. Hell yes."

Armstrong stepped down as chairman of the charity in October, saying he didn't want his association to damage the foundation's ability to



Lance Armstrong at a Livestrong event last October. GETTY IMAGES FILE

raise money and continue its advocacy programs on behalf of people with cancer.

Among the steps the organization is taking to establish a new identity is to change its day of action each year from Oct. 2 — the date in 1996 that Armstrong was diagnosed with cancer — to May 17, the group announced Thursday.

On that day in 2004, the charity launched its trademark yellow Livestrong bands. Since then, 87 million have been sold, Katherine McLane, the group's executive vice-president for communications, said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	14	.745	—
New York	34	20	.630	6 1/2
Indiana	36	22	.621	6 1/2
Atlanta	33	23	.589	8 1/2
Brooklyn	34	24	.586	8 1/2
Chicago	33	25	.569	9 1/2
Boston	30	27	.526	12
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	13 1/2
Toronto	23	35	.397	19 1/2
Philadelphia	22	34	.393	20 1/2
Detroit	23	37	.383	20 1/2
Cleveland	20	38	.345	22 1/2
Washington	18	38	.321	23 1/2
Orlando	16	42	.276	26 1/2
Charlotte	13	44	.228	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	45	14	.763	—
Oklahoma City	42	15	.737	2
L.A. Clippers	42	18	.700	3 1/2
Memphis	38	18	.679	5 1/2
Denver	37	22	.627	8
Golden State	33	25	.569	11 1/2
Utah	31	27	.534	13 1/2
Houston	31	28	.525	14
L.A. Lakers	28	30	.483	16 1/2
Portland	26	31	.456	18
Dallas	25	32	.439	19
Minnesota	20	34	.370	22 1/2
Phoenix	20	39	.339	25
New Orleans	20	39	.339	25
Sacramento	20	39	.339	25

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

Thursday's results
L.A. Clippers 99 Indiana 91
Chicago 93 Philadelphia 82
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's results
Sacramento 125 Orlando 101
Cleveland 103 Toronto 92
Detroit 96 Washington 95
New York 109 Golden State 105
Milwaukee 110 Houston 107
Oklahoma City 119 New Orleans 74
Memphis 90 Dallas 84
Phoenix 105 San Antonio 101 OT
Atlanta 102 Utah 91
Denver 111 Portland 109

Friday, March 1
Houston at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 7 p.m.
New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Brooklyn, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Miami, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	21	13	8	0	70	58	26
New Jersey	20	10	6	4	49	52	24
Philadelphia	22	10	11	1	64	67	21
NY Rangers	19	9	8	2	48	49	20
NY Islanders	21	8	11	2	61	73	18

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	20	13	4	3	58	43	29
Boston	17	13	2	2	51	36	28
Ottawa	21	12	6	3	49	39	27
Toronto	22	13	9	0	64	55	26
Buffalo	21	8	12	1	54	67	17

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	19	10	8	1	54	55	21
Winnipeg	20	10	9	1	55	61	21
Tampa Bay	20	9	10	1	71	64	19
Florida	20	6	9	5	51	73	17
Washington	19	7	11	1	52	59	15

Thursday's results
NY Rangers 4 Tampa Bay 1
Toronto 5 NY Islanders 4 (OT)
Carolina 4 Pittsburgh 1
Boston 2 Ottawa 1 (OT)
Buffalo 4 Florida 3 (SO)
Winnipeg 3 New Jersey 1
Chicago 3 St. Louis 0
Edmonton 5 Dallas 1
Minnesota 4 Phoenix 3
Calgary at Colorado
Detroit at San Jose

Wednesday's results
Philadelphia 4 Washington 1
Montreal 5 Toronto 2
Los Angeles 2 Detroit 1
Anaheim 5 Nashville 1

Friday's games
All Times Eastern
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Saturday's games
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 12 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 1 p.m.
New Jersey at Buffalo, 3 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Nashville at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	20	17	0	3	64	37	37
Nashville	21	9	7	5	45	52	23
St. Louis	19	10	7	2	55	55	22
Detroit	20	9	8	3	58	56	21
Columbus	20	5	12	3	44	61	13

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	19	10	5	4	54	54	24
Minnesota	19	10	7	2	43	46	22
Edmonton	19	8	7	4	47	50	20
Calgary	18	7	7	4	49	61	18
Colorado	18	7	8	3	44	54	17

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	18	14	3	1	64	48	29
Los Angeles	18	10	6	2	47	42	22
Dallas	21	10	9	2	57	62	22
San Jose	18	9	6	3	44	41	21
Phoenix	20	9	8	3	57	55	21

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

LEAF 5, ISLANDERS 4 (OT)
First Period
1. NY Islanders, Bailey 1 (Okposo, Macdonald) 3:34
2. Toronto, Kadri 6 (Fraser) 8:31

Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. NY Islanders, Visnovsky 1 (Cizikas, McDonald) 6:22
4. Toronto, Kadri 7 (Fraser, Franson) 8:55
5. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 12 (Steele, Orr) 10:25
6. Toronto, Kadri 8 (Kostka, Gunnarsson) 14:12

Penalties — None.
Third Period
7. NY Islanders, Macdonald 1 (Okposo, Streit) 5:31
8. NY Islanders, Okposo 2 (Unassisted) 10:08

Penalties — None.
Overtime
9. Toronto, Phaneuf 4 (Grabovski, MacArthur) 1:11
Penalties — None.

Shots
Toronto 9 10 8 1—28
NY Islanders 6 11 9 1—27

Goal — Toronto: Reimer (W, 7-3-0).
NY Islanders: Nabokov (L0, 8-7-2).

Power plays (goal-chances) — Toronto: 0-0.
NY Islanders: 0-0.

Referees — Marc Joannette, Ian Walsh.
Linesmen — Mike Civic, Derek Amell.
Att. — 9,222 (Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum).



Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You are going through rather an intense phase at the moment and it's putting a strain on your body, mind and emotions. Take a break. What you are searching for will be found the moment you stop looking for it.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Don't hesitate today or you may lose momentum and give your rivals a chance to catch up. All's fair in love, war and business and if you make sure you are first, the rewards are sure to follow.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Listen to your instincts and act on what they tell you. If you have one brilliant idea today you will probably have a dozen or more, so you need to be selective. What is the most realistic option? Go for it.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Cut through all the confusion and get to the root of a problem that has been causing you a lot of sleepless nights. All you have to do is stick to the facts and avoid making value judgments. Sounds easy, doesn't it?

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

How often have you been told not to act in haste? Too many, no doubt, but today you are invited to act as quickly as you like. In fact, the quicker the better. You simply can't put a foot wrong now.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You may be practical by nature but you have flashes of inspiration like everyone else and you should listen to what your inner voice tells you today. One good idea, in particular, could be a money spinner.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Important things will only get done today if you step up to the plate and take charge. Inevitably, some people will complain but you don't have time to argue: they either do as they are told or get left behind.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Do you get the feeling that someone is trying to annoy you for the fun of it? Whether or not it is true, you are advised not to lose your temper with them. Really, it's just not worth the hassle.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Try to arrange things so that you don't do any real work at all. Put yourself forward as team leader. Take a supervising role. While others are working their fingers to the bone, you'll be getting the praise!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If someone offers you an apology today, you must accept it. No matter what it is that caused your falling out, it's obvious that they don't hold a grudge. So, there is no reason why you should either.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You will be in inspired form today. You will come up with ideas that others simply don't have the insight or intelligence to think of. But remember that good ideas are like manure — they work best when spread around.

Pisces

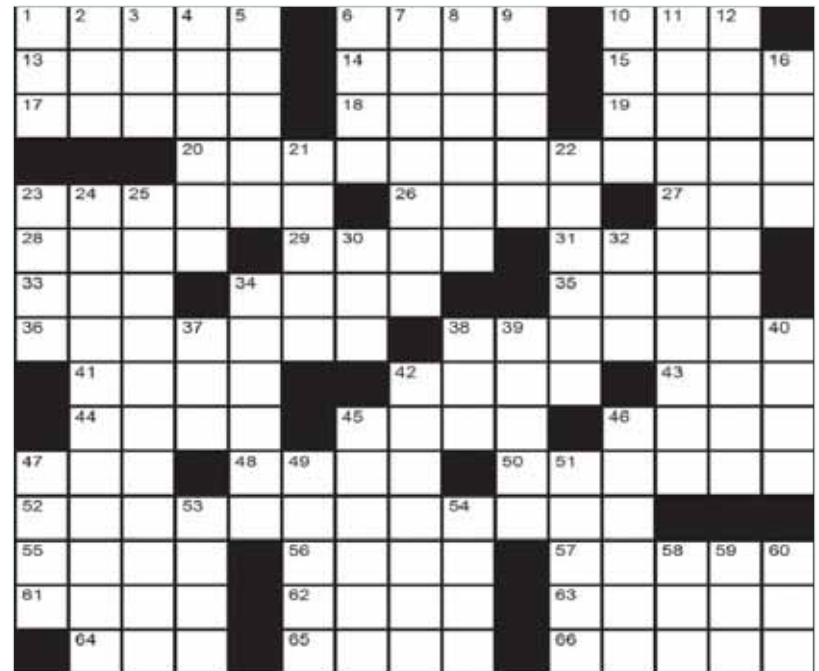
Feb. 20 - March 20

It may seem as if someone has let you down or, worse, betrayed a secret about you, but don't get on your high horse just yet. It could be there's another side to this story. Stay calm and find out what it is. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Zeppelin's "Whole __ Love"
6. Speed of sound, __ 1
10. "Eew."
13. Christina Aguilera's " __ to You"
14. Tooth complaint
15. Mr. LaBeouf
17. Commenced
18. Helen of __
19. Criminal escapes
20. Bit of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah": "Love is not a __ / It's a cold and it's a broken..."
23. Legendary lady of Coventry
26. Mr. Bridges, Jeff's actor brother
27. Assemble the bricks
28. Car rental company
29. Mardi __
31. Come across as
33. Guitar master Mr. Paul
34. Plane reservation
35. Short-term worker, shortly
36. "Happy Days" diner
38. Spice Girls smash
41. Cowardly Lion's alter ego in Kansas
42. Extinct bird
43. Not specialized [abbr.]
44. Looked
45. __ fide
46. Exclusively
47. __ the Record Man
48. Compass/ruler set, for short
50. Ms. Anderson
52. Shakespeare's place-for-plays: 2 wds.
55. "Slithy" Lewis Carroll creature
56. Prefix with 'are' (Land measure)
57. Shrek, and others
61. Je __, Tu es, Il est...
62. " __ my wit's end!"
63. Molten rock
64. __ builder (Stage gig)
65. Particle physics lab near Geneva
66. Actor, Sean __



Down

1. Ad- __ (Off-the-cuff)
2. 'Rem' ender (TV clicker)
3. __-of-war
4. Country singer Randy
5. Couple's yrly. celebration
6. Toronto jazz singer Mr. Dusk
7. Circus performer
8. Tasks
9. OutKast hit!: 2 wds.
10. Filmdom's Ms. Fisher
11. Celine Dion's birthplace in Quebec
12. 19th Prime Minister, in 1993: 2 wds.
16. Like fireplace residue
21. Like pet store birds
22. "I __ longer..." (Habit-quitter's pledge)
23. Grand event
24. Fanatical
25. 1955's "Lady and the Tramp", for one: 2 wds.
30. Univ. dorm supervisors
32. 'Eight' ender
34. "We Are Family" by Sister __
37. 'Rev' add-on (Take back)
38. Came through
39. Conform
40. "Orinoco Flow (Sail Away)"

- singer
42. Glassed-enclosed VIA Rail spot: 2 wds.
45. Puccini opera, La __
46. Beginnings, Alphas ...Conclusions, __
47. Li'l drill instructors
49. Moral principle
51. Fragrance
53. Most proficient
54. Office memo abbr.
58. Mil. unit
59. Poet Ms. Dickinson, to pals
60. __ Francisco

Yesterday's Crossword

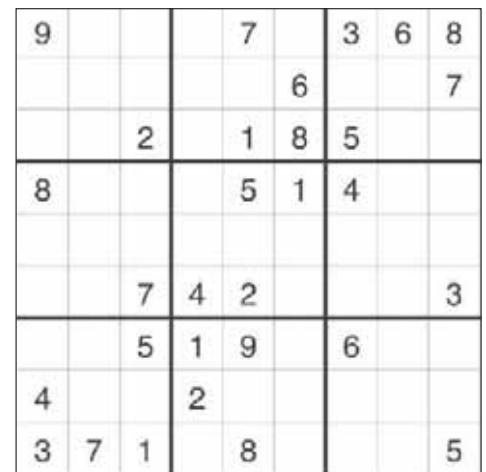


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: 12°
MIN: 1°

SATURDAY



MAX: 11°
MIN: 2°

SUNDAY



MAX: 2°
MIN: -3°



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